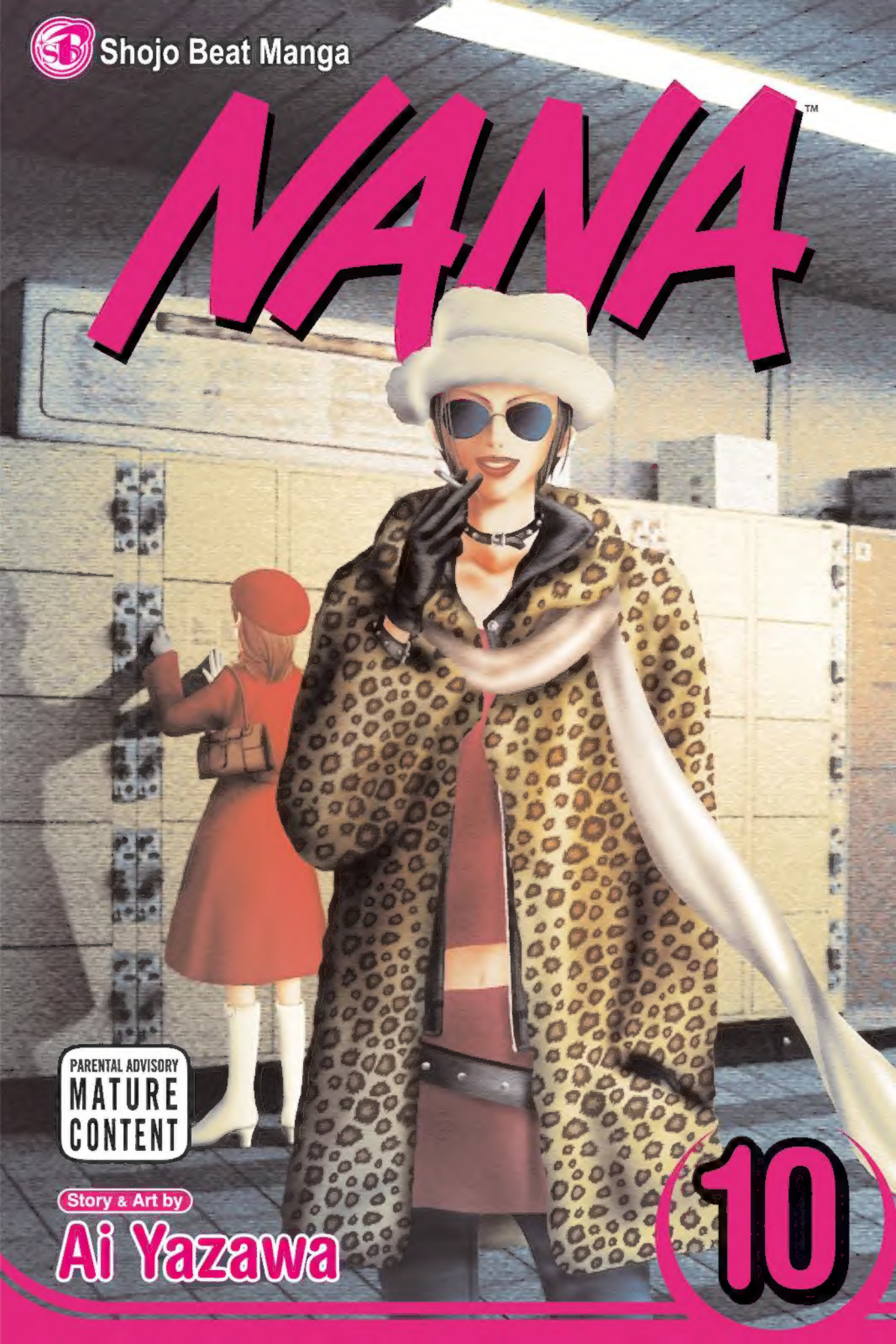
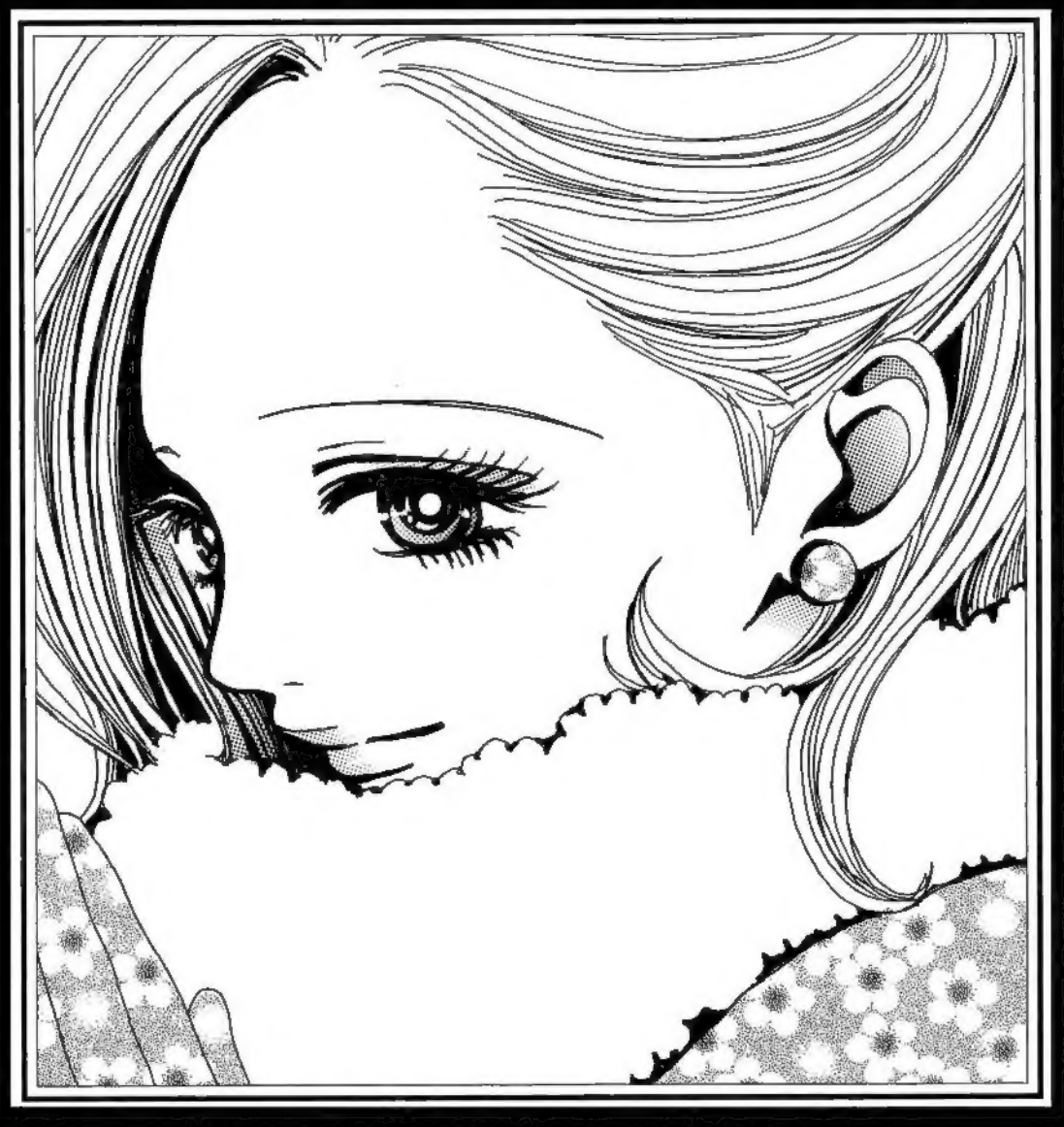

Shojo Beat Manga
NANA™
PARENTAL ADVISORY
MATURE
CONTENT
Story & Art by
Ai Yazawa
10

Shojo Beat

NANA Vol. 10



Story & Art by Ai Yazawa

NANA

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The Story of Nana

Nana "Hachi" Komatsu and Nana Osaki meet by chance on a train headed for Tokyo. Their personalities and the environments they grew up in are very different, but by fate or by chance, they meet again and become roommates...

Nana Osaki gets back together with her ex-boyfriend Ren, who she hasn't seen for more than a year. Ren's band Trapnest is wildly popular, and Nana is determined that Blast will keep up. A major label offers the band a temporary contract, and now Blast is busy practicing daily for their debut.

Hachi's pregnancy and decision to marry Takumi has understandably shaken both Blast and Trapnest. Nana is so freaked out she starts acting up and blacking out. Reira also freaks out and seeks support from Yasu.

Hachi moves into a fancy new condo with Takumi. Her days pass with unexpected calm and ease, but inside, her unresolved feelings for Nobu continue to gnaw at her. Hachi cries when Shin calls to see how she's doing. And then there's Reira, whose life also seems to be unraveling...

♥For the complete story, please check out *Nana*, volumes 1 - 9.
Available in bookstores everywhere!!

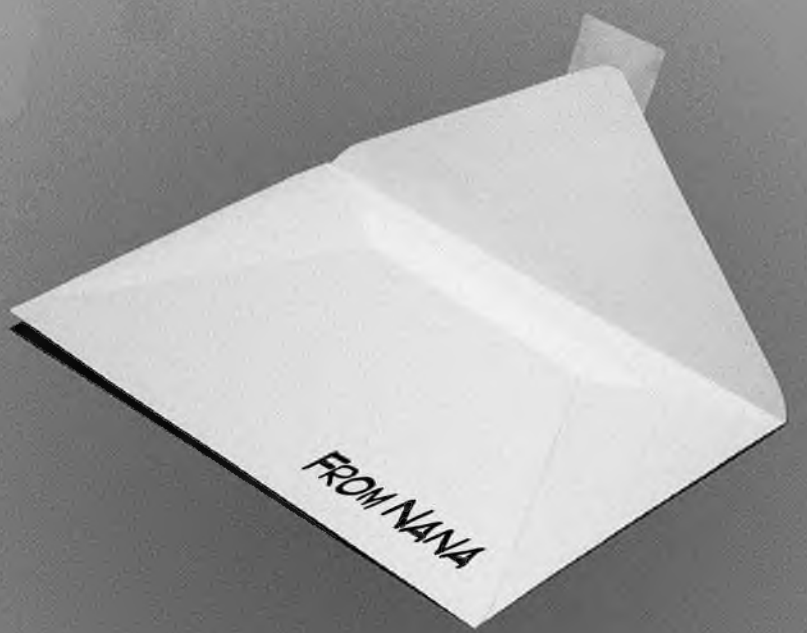
PEOPLE SAY THAT THE MORE YOU FIGHT WITH SOME-ONE, THE CLOSER YOU ARE TO THEM...

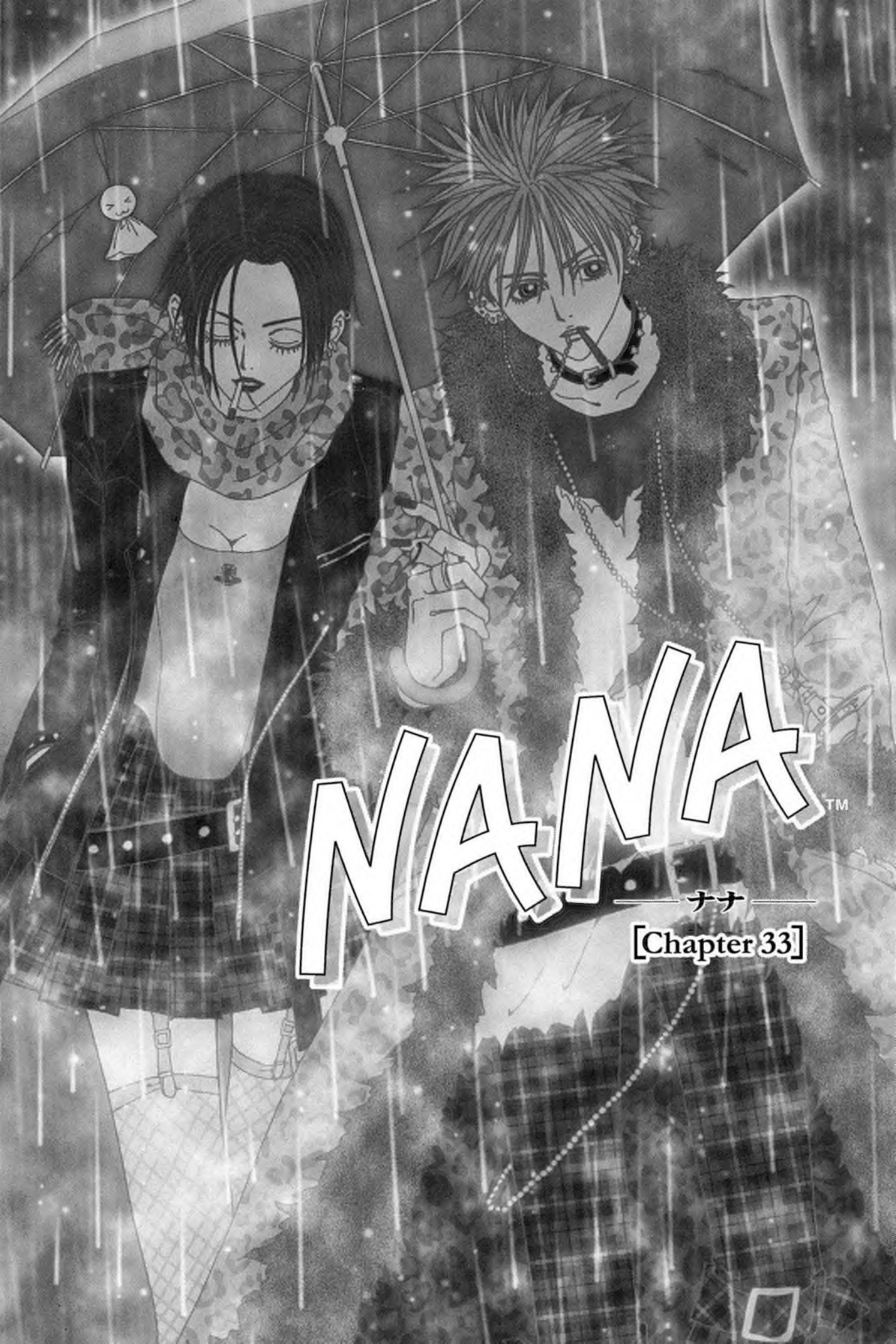
BUT FIGHTING IS ULTIMATELY JUST SLAMMING YOUR EGOS INTO EACH OTHER, AND EVEN IF THIS REVEALS YOUR TRUE FEELINGS, IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY RESULT IN UNDER-STANDING.

I GUESS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE WITHOUT GETTING HURT...

BUT I REALIZED THAT I HAD TO TRY TO LIVE WITHOUT HURTING THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.

I FINALLY FIGURED THAT OUT.

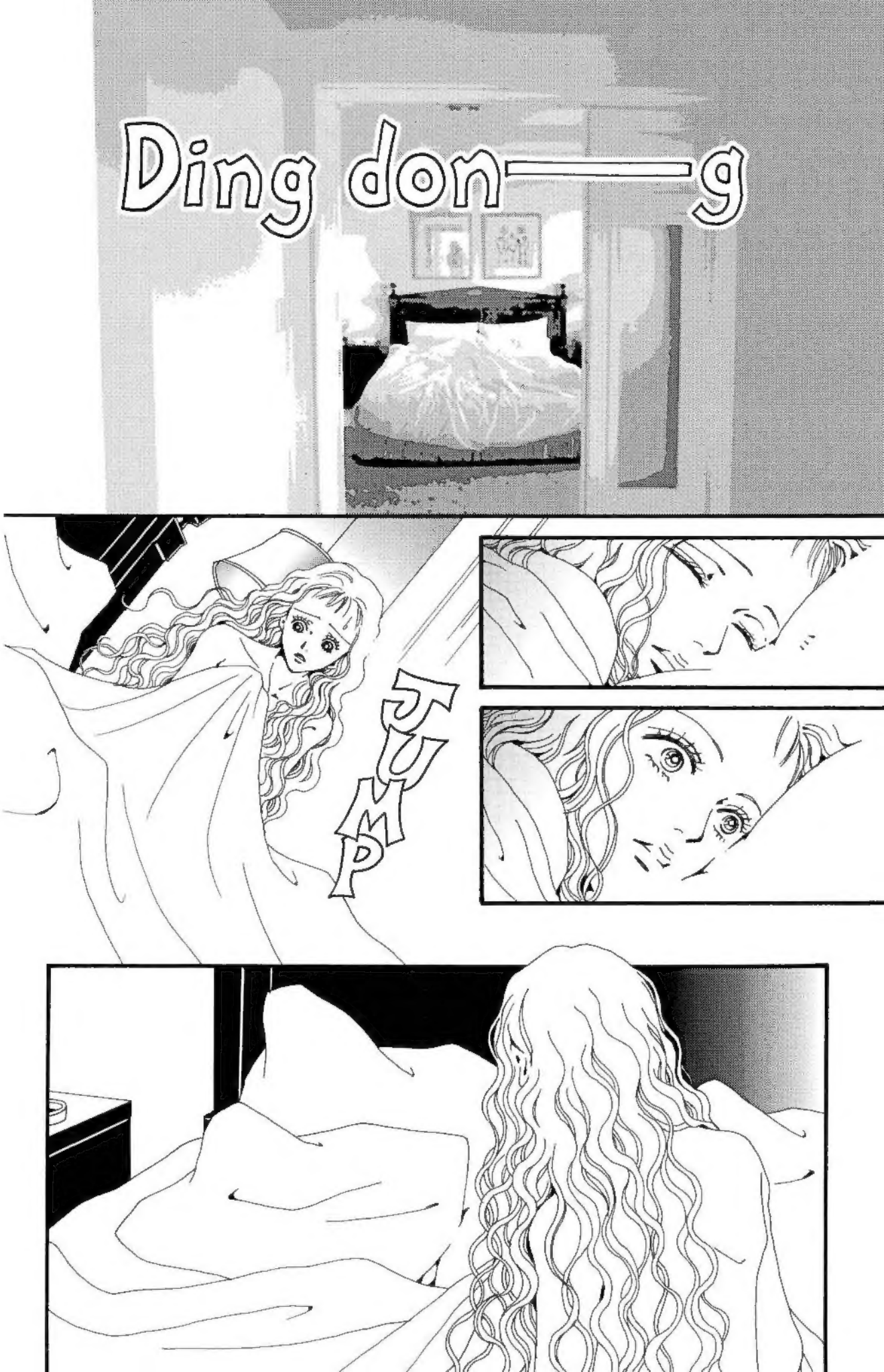


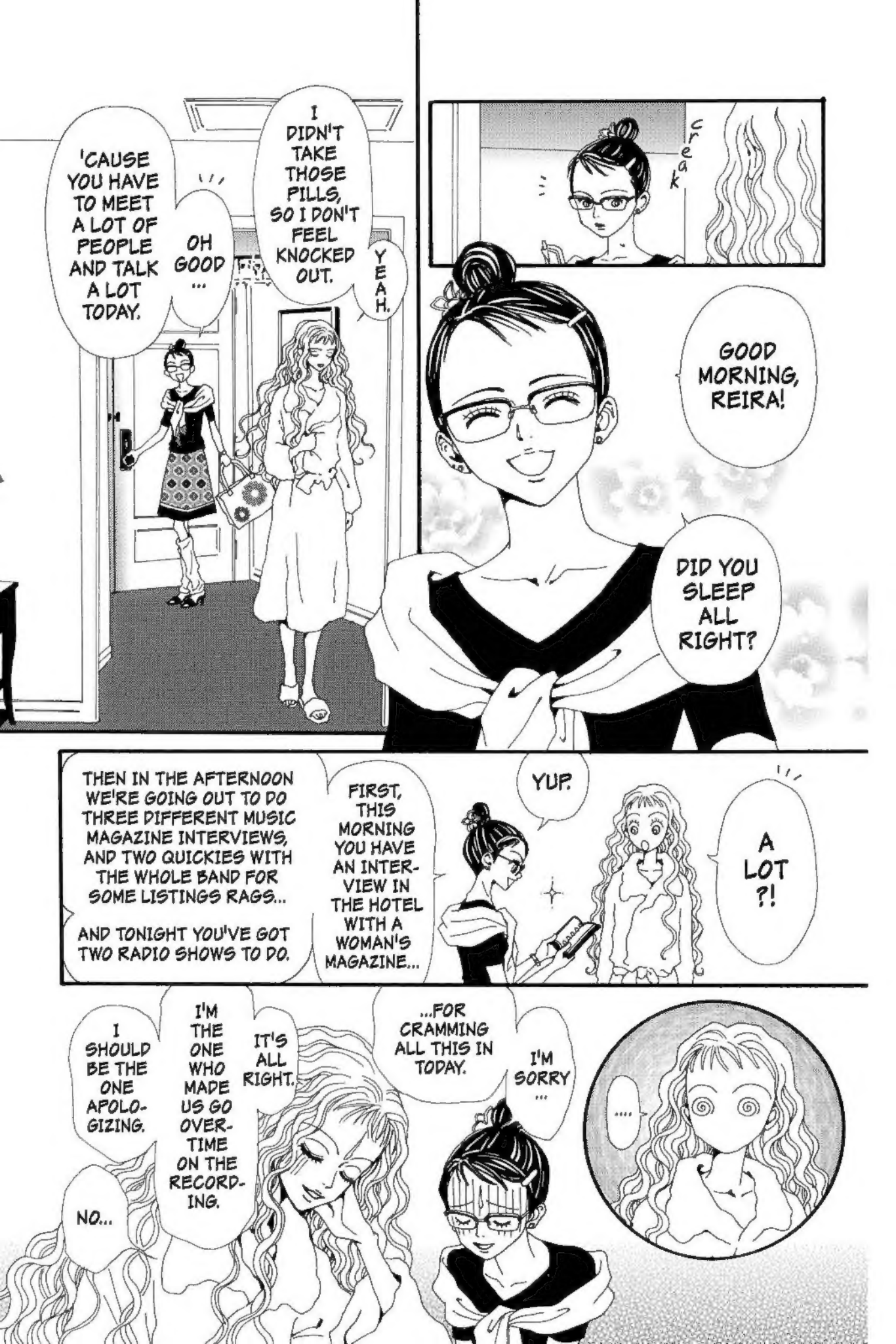

NANA™
ナナ
[Chapter 33]

F Hachi
D 09/11 8:56
S Morning

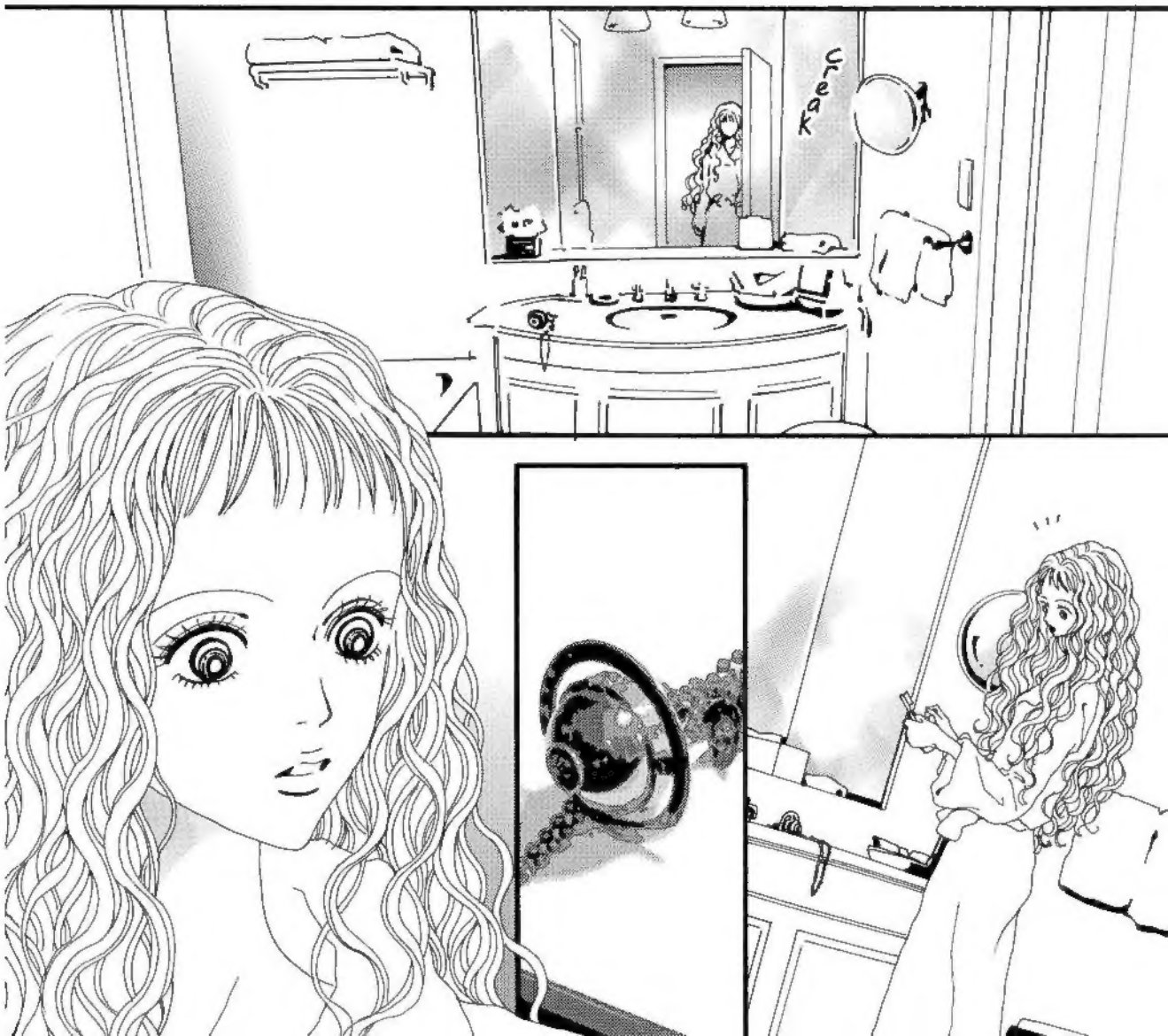
Thanks for calling yesterday.
I was so happy, but
I'm really sorry I had to
hang up suddenly...
I thought about a lot
of things after that,
and think that there's
something I should tell
you, Shin.
There's something I
want to ask you, too.
If you're free this PM,
can we meet somewhere?

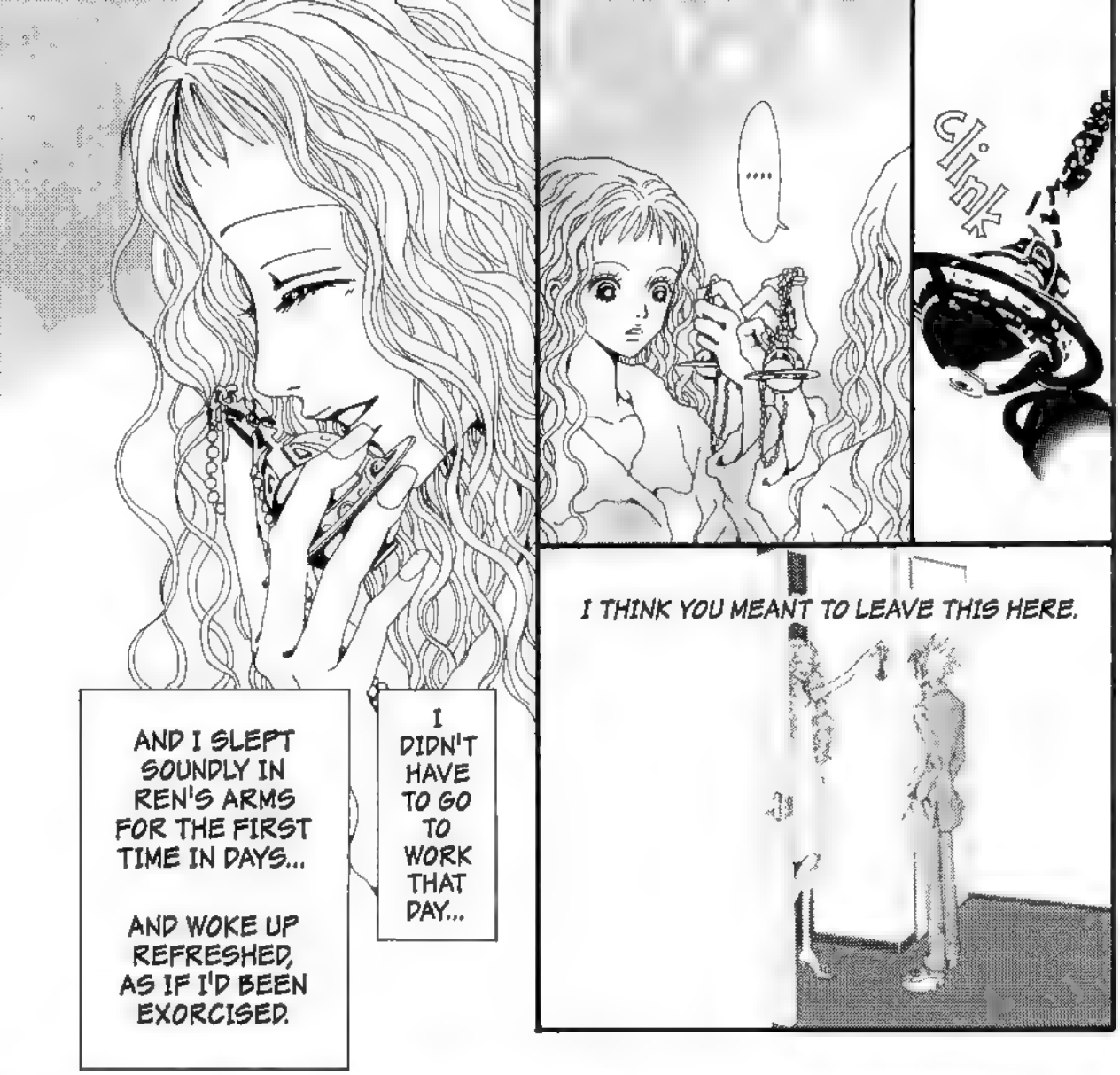
Hachiko


Ding don——g
JUMP


creak
GOOD MORNING, REIRA!
DID YOU SLEEP ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.
I DIDN'T TAKE THOSE PILLS, SO I DON'T FEEL KNOCKED OUT.
OH GOOD ...
'CAUSE YOU HAVE TO MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE AND TALK A LOT TODAY.
FIRST, THIS MORNING YOU HAVE AN INTERVIEW IN THE HOTEL WITH A WOMAN'S MAGAZINE...
YUP.
A LOT?!
THEN IN THE AFTERNOON WE'RE GOING OUT TO DO THREE DIFFERENT MUSIC MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS, AND TWO QUICKIES WITH THE WHOLE BAND FOR SOME LISTINGS RAGS...
AND TONIGHT YOU'VE GOT TWO RADIO SHOWS TO DO.
I'M SORRY ...
...FOR CRAMMING ALL THIS IN TODAY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M THE ONE WHO MADE US GO OVER-TIME ON THE RECORDING.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING.
NO...
....

rush rush
CAN I JUMP IN THE SHOWER?
IS THERE TIME FOR THAT?
YEAH.
THE HAIR AND MAKE-UP PERSON WILL BE HERE IN HALF AN HOUR.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR BREAK-FAST?
CAN YOU ORDER ME SOMETHING FROM ROOM SERVICE?


creak


....
clink
I THINK YOU MEANT TO LEAVE THIS HERE.
I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO WORK THAT DAY...
AND I SLEPT SOUNDLY IN REN'S ARMS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DAYS...
AND WOKE UP REFRESHED, AS IF I'D BEEN EXORCISED.

MY UM-BRELLA'S OVER AT REN'S.
Ssssss...
IT'S RAIN-ING...
DAMN.

AND TELL HIM I WON'T BE SEEING HIM FOR A WHILE.
I BET NOBU NEVER TOLD REN ANYTHING.
WHAT'S HE EVEN GOOD FOR?!
ZZZZ
NANA, IS YOUR PRIDE THAT IMPORTANT?
HEH HEH
LIL' BABY...
ZZZZ
MMPH

...I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO RECONCILE MY FEELINGS ABOUT REN AND TRAPNEST.
UNTIL MY BAND REALLY MAKES IT...
BUT WHEN I'M WITH REN, I ALWAYS JUST DIVE RIGHT BACK IN LIKE THIS...
'CAUSE I LOVE HIM.
IT'S VERY SIMPLE.
DRIP DRIP DRIP

THE STRAW-BERRY GLASSES WERE GONE.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE HACHI TOOK MY GLASS TOO...
BUT WHEN I REALIZED THEY WERE REALLY BROKEN, I COULDN'T SIT STILL.
ACTU-ALLY, BOTH GLASSES GOT BROKEN.
WHAT ?!
WHEN HACHIKO SAW WHAT HAP-PENED, SHE WAS SHOCKED AND STARTED TO CRY, AND TAKUMI HAD A HARD TIME CALMING HER DOWN.
I GUESS THEY THOUGHT YOU FREAKED OUT AND BROKE THOSE GLASSES ON PURPOSE.
YOU DON'T USUALLY BREAK TWO ACCI-DENT-ALLY.
TAKUMI TOLD ME...
"YOUR LADY'S SO VIOLENT. MAKE HER BEHAVE!"
BEHAVE?!
BUT HE'S SO VIOLENT HIMSELF.

GODDAMMIT...
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY...
THEN WHAT DID YOU MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW ...
I REALLY DON'T ..
...
SO THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HACHI LEFT WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING.
THOSE GLASSES WERE SO PRECIOUS TO HER.
YOUR ACTION WAS SYMBOLIC, LIKE YOU TOLD HER YOU NEVER WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER AGAIN.
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEM-BER?
AND WHAT ABOUT DROWN-ING YOUR CELL PHONE?
WEIRD..
THIS IS SERIOUS.
I'M SORRY ...
AND YOU BOUGHT IT FOR ME.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.
WHAT-EVER, WE CAN ALWAYS JUST GET ANOTHER PHONE.
BUT ALL THE PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES IN THERE ARE GONE.
I SHOULD HAVE WRITTEN THEM DOWN.
DAMN!
WELL, I'M SURE I HAVE THE NUMBERS OF YOUR FEW FRIENDS.
YOU WANT TO WRITE THEM DOWN NOW?
YEAH!

I CAN'T, I HAVE TO SPLIT.
BUT YOU HAVE PRACTICE TONIGHT, RIGHT?
YOU IDIOT!
DO IT NOW!
SMACK
JUST ASK EVERY-ONE THEN.
I HAVE TO CALL HACHI SOON.
BUT ...
OH, I HAVE TO CHARGE MY PHONE...
POP
HACHIKO'S GOT MORNING SICKNESS, AND IT'S RAIN-ING. I'M SURE SHE'LL BE HOME.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO SEE HER?
Pssssh
.....
I CAN RE-MEM-BER THAT.
THE SAME APART-MENT NUMBER AS REN'S...
NUM-BER 302?
WHAT STATION?
WHERE THE HELL'S THAT?
SHI-RO-GA-NE?
Minato-ku Shirogane 7-chome seru Shirogane 302

REN!
CAN YOU DRIVE ME TO THE STATION ?!
TO SHIRO-GANE STATION ?
NO, THE STOP RIGHT BE-FORE IT.
I HAVE TO BUY THOSE STRAW-BERRY GLASSES.
I ALWAYS LOOK BACK...
...AND THINK ABOUT HOW CARE-LESS I WAS.
BUT IT WAS RAIN-ING SO HARD..
...AND I DIDN'T HAVE MY UMBRELLA ...
...AND I JUST WANTED TO SEE HACHI RIGHT THEN.
REN'S CAR WAS PARKED RIGHT BY MY APARTMENT.
IT WAS A QUICK DASH TO THE CAR.
SPLASH!

click click click click
PHEW
SLAM
Vrroom
.....
Vroooom

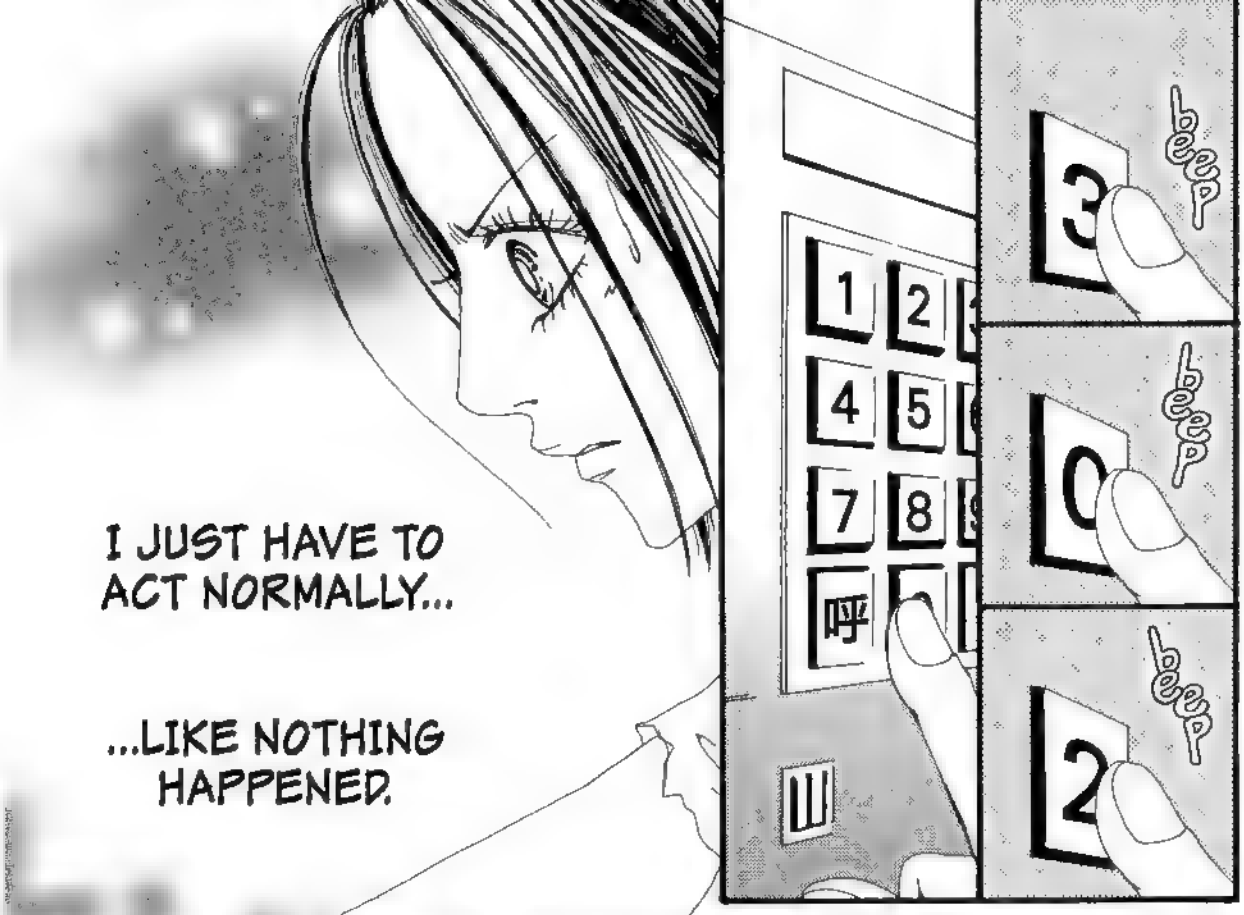
I SURE GOT LUCKY.
I THINK THE RAIN MADE IT HAPPEN.
THE TRIGGER THAT RUINS SOME-ONE'S FATE...
...CAN BE PULLED IN AN INSTANT.

TRIGGER
TRAPNEST

fs —sh
RING
RING
beep
RING
14:40
HELLO, MS. ICHINOSE.
ARE YOU GOING OUT?
Ms. Ichinose
COULD YOU CALL ME A CAB?
YEAH!
SURE THING. WHERE TO?
TO SHIRO-GANE STATION.

UGH
IT HAS TO BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE...
I CAN'T FIND IT.
THIS SUCKS!
山医院
白金
ato-ku
gane 7-chome
Shirogane
I NEED AN UMBRELLA TO GO TO PRACTICE ANYWAY.
¥500
BUT AN UMBRELLA'S CHEAPER.
IF I HAD MONEY FOR AN UMBRELLA, I GUESS I COULD'VE CAUGHT A CAB.
IT'S SUP-POSED TO BE A 20-MINUTE WALK FROM THE STATION, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN WALKING FOR AN HOUR.
Vrrrooom
TAXI
I'M LOOKING FOR THIS ADDRESS. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?
EX-CUSE ME—
Sssssh

GIMME BACK MY ¥500!
THIS SUCKS!
I GOT LOST SO MANY TIMES IN THAT POURING RAIN.
BY THE TIME I FOUND HACHI'S PLACE, I WAS SOAKING WET, EVEN WITH THE UMBRELLA.
STOMP STOMP



...THAT NO MATTER WHAT, THE HERO IS ALWAYS ON THE HEROINE'S SIDE!

BUT I'LL SHOW HER...

'CAUSE SHE THINKS I'M A HERO OF JUSTICE.

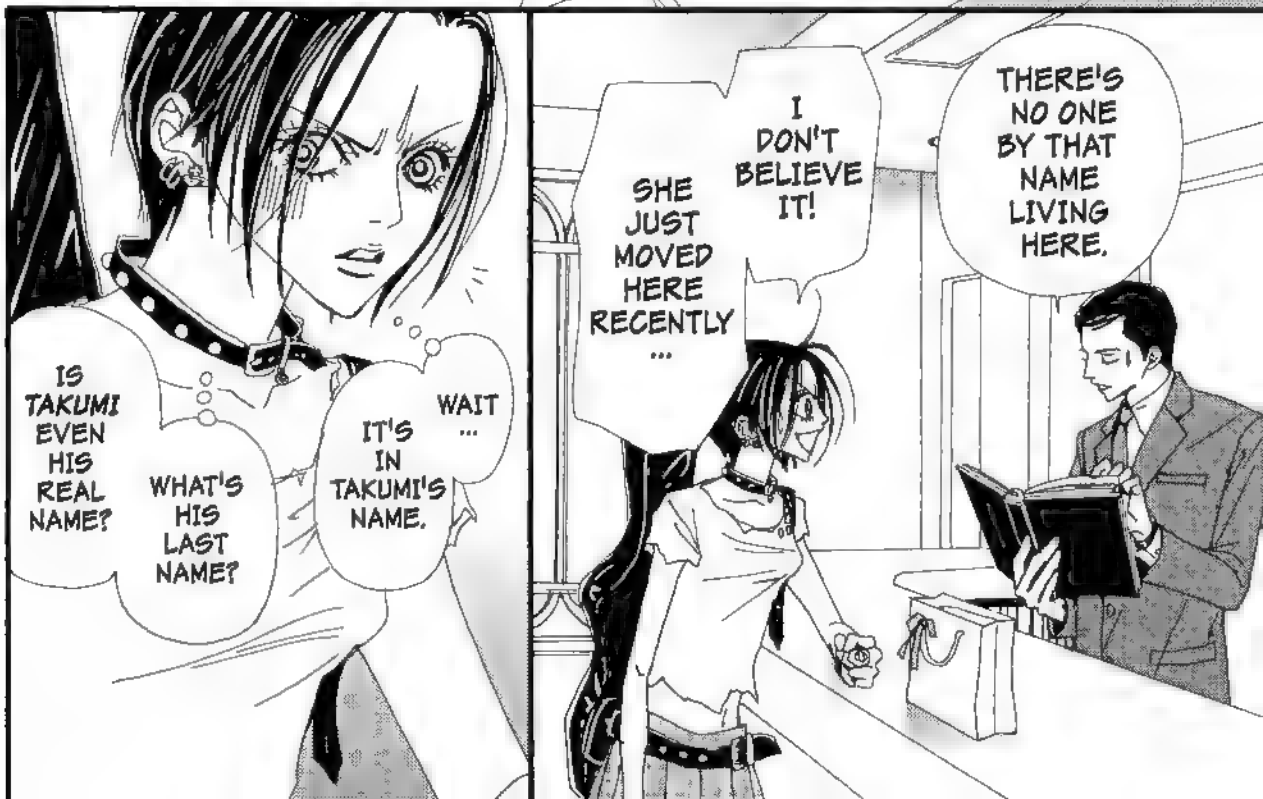
HACHI THINKS I'M MAD AND TAKING NOBU'S SIDE, THAT I'M BEING SOME VIGILANTE.

SLIP
I'll wait for you near the exit of Shiroganedai 'til 7 PM.
Nana
....
rustle
EXCUSE ME...
UM...
WHAT ?
WHICH APART-MENT IS IT FOR?
SURE.
NUMBER 302...
THE PERSON I CAME TO SEE SEEMS TO BE OUT. WHEN SHE COMES BACK, CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS TO HER?

THERE'S NO ONE LIVING IN THAT APARTMENT RIGHT NOW.
YOU MUST HAVE THE WRONG APARTMENT NUMBER.
BUT IT'S THE SAME APART-MENT NUMBER AS REN'S.
I COULDN'T GET THAT WRONG.

tap
EXCUSE ME...
FLICK
I'M SORRY, YOU CAN'T SMOKE IN HERE.
AREN'T YOU UNDERAGE, ANYWAY?
...
clink

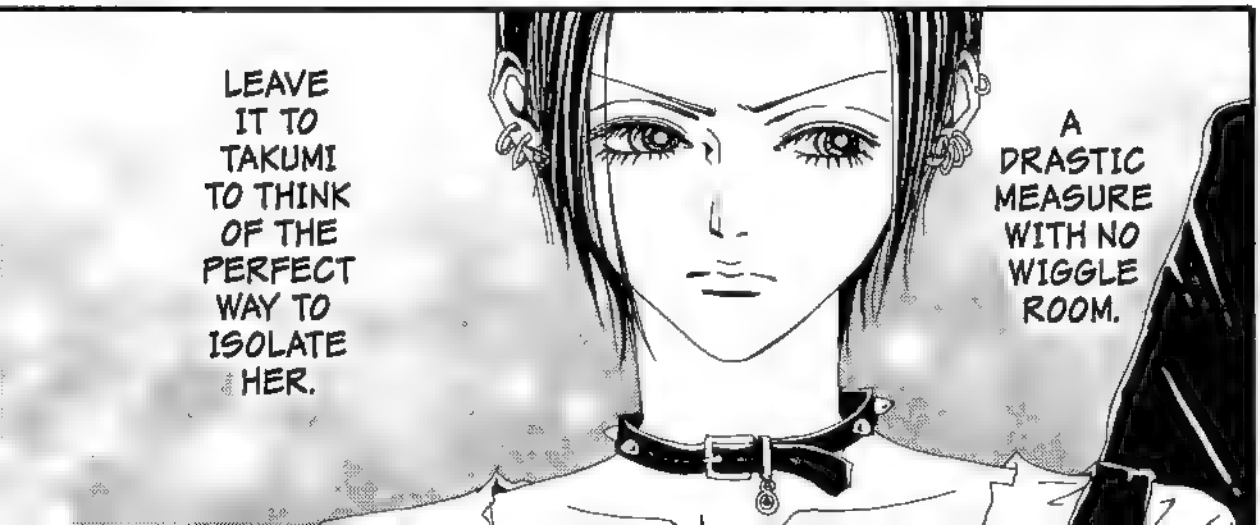
NANA KOMATSU?


THERE'S NO ONE BY THAT NAME LIVING HERE.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SHE JUST MOVED HERE RECENTLY ...
WAIT ...
IT'S IN TAKUMI'S NAME.
WHAT'S HIS LAST NAME?
IS TAKUMI EVEN HIS REAL NAME?

I'M SORRY, I CAN'T HELP YOU.
302
Ichinose, Takumi
Nana
(Caution) Refuse all requests from any visitor without an appointment. Please tell suspicious people that the room is unoccupied, so they won't return.
'CAUSE WE KNOW EACH OTHER!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE ABOUT IT, I ALREADY KNOW!
TAKUMI FROM TRAPNEST IS LIVING WITH MY FRIEND IN APART-MENT 302!
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW TAKUMI'S REAL NAME?!
THERE'S NO ONE LIVING HERE BY THAT NAME EITHER.

Pssssh
TAKUMI?! AS IF!
I KNOW THAT STUPID CONCIERGE THINKS I'M A TAKUMI STALKER.
GOD-DAM-MIT!
EVEN REN'S PLACE DOESN'T TREAT PEOPLE LIKE THAT!
HOW COULD SECURITY BE THIS TIGHT ?!

THERE'S NO ONE LIVING IN THAT APARTMENT RIGHT NOW.



I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S A HAPPY LIFE.
NOW SHE ONLY EXISTS FOR TAKUMI AND THE BABY IN HER BELLY.
POOR HACHI, LIVING IN A PLACE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE UNOCCUPIED. IT'S LIKE A GHOST WHO DOESN'T REALIZE SHE'S DEAD.
IT'S PERFECT. THIS WAY, ANY VISITORS WILL JUST THINK THEY MADE A MISTAKE.
...THE WAY YOU WANT TO LIVE?
...IS THAT REALLY...
HEY, HACHI...
YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?
WHAT?

ARE YOU PREG-NANT?
YOU FIGURED THAT ONE OUT.
WELL, I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER REASON ... FOR TAKUMI TO PRO-POSE.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
PROB-ABLY.
...ARE YOU SURE IT'S TAKUMI'S BABY?
BUT ...
GET AN ABOR-TION ...
TELL TAKUMI THE TRUTH, AND BREAK UP WITH HIM.
GETTING MARRIED DOESN'T MEAN YOU'LL BE HAPPY, YOU KNOW.
WELL ...
TAKUMI KNOWS EVERY-THING.

HE KNOWS, AND HE STILL WANTS TO GET MARRIED?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BUT...
UM...
WE'RE GETTING MARRIED 'CAUSE WE ACCEPT EACH OTHER AND THE SITUATION...
....
AM I TOTALLY WEIRD?
TAKUMI'S A PRETTY WEIRD GUY, TOO.
NO...
OBVIOUSLY, I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHAT'S WEIRD OR WRONG OR RIGHT ABOUT ANYTHING...
SO DON'T LISTEN TO ME.

WAS YOUR FAMILY SITUATION LIKE THE SITUATION I'M IN NOW?
SHIN, I THINK EVERY-ONE'S BEEN AVOIDING TELLING YOU ABOUT ME...
...'CAUSE I'M SURE THEY'RE TOTALLY PISSED AT ME...
BUT ALSO 'CAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO HIT A SORE SPOT FOR YOU.
IT'S NOT THAT THEY'RE JUST LEAVING YOU OUT IN THE COLD.
I KNEW YOU'D BE AGAINST MY HAVING THE BABY...
clink
I DIDN'T WANNA TELL YOU EITHER, SHIN...
...I THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
BUT THAT'S WHY...
IT MUST'VE BEEN SO HARD FOR YOUR MOTHER, TOO...
BUT I BELIEVE SHE REALLY WANTED TO HAVE YOU, SHIN.
I'M SORRY.
....
I KNOW THAT.
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD.

THEN ...
PLEASE TELL ME, SHIN...
HOW YOU CAME TO THINK THAT YOUR MOTHER SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD YOU.
I DEFIN-ITELY DO NOT...
...WANT MY CHILD TO THINK LIKE THAT.
BUT IF THE BABY ISN'T REALLY TAKUMI'S ...
...I THINK TAKUMI WILL SUFFER TOO.
AND I THINK MY CHILD WILL BE SUSPI-CIOUS IF THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE HIM.
BUT EVEN IF THAT HAPPENS ...
...I STILL WANT TO HAVE HOPE...
...THAT IF WE TRY, WE CAN HAVE A HAPPY FAMILY.

BUT REALLY, DON'T JUST LISTEN TO ME.
EVEN IF THE SITUATION IS SIMILAR, THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT 'CAUSE YOU'RE DIFFERENT PEOPLE...
SO YOU JUST HAVE TO DO THINGS YOUR WAY.
YES...
IS THAT WISHFUL THINK-ING?
I'M SORRY...
YEAH ...

I WISH I'D BEEN BORN AS YOUR CHILD, HACHI.
clink
SHINICHI OKAZAKI'S MOTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE...

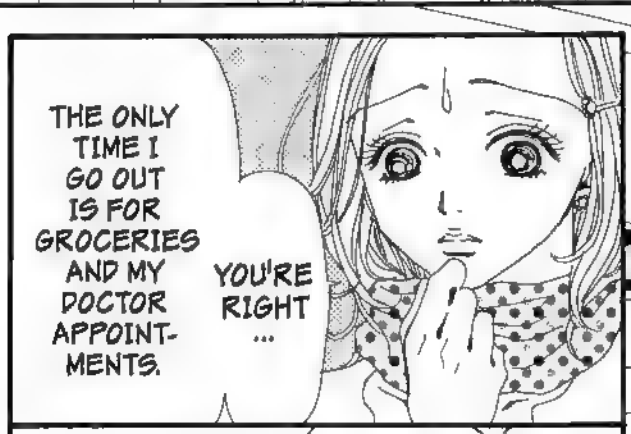
...RIGHT AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO SHIN.
WE MAY NEVER FIND OUT WHO SHIN'S REAL FATHER IS.
IF YOU WANT, I'LL INVESTI-GATE FURTHER ...
...BUT SINCE IT HAPPENED OVERSEAS, IT WON'T BE EASY...
NO, THAT'S ENOUGH.
GO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO NANA'S MOTHER.
BUT MR. KUDO...
THIS STORY'S ONLY GOOD IF BLAST'S MAJOR LABEL RECORD COMES OUT...
IT'S SUCH A GAMBLE.
JUST WAIT AND SEE.
THEY'RE GOING TO BE BIG.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE GAIA'S REALLY HOLDING OUT ON THEM.
I'LL MAKE IT HAP-PEN.
AS ALWAYS, THANKS.

EVEN IF THE RECORD COMES OUT, IT WON'T SELL.
IF THEIR IMAGE IS GOOD, THEY'LL GET THE IDIOT FANS, THEN THE REAL MUSIC FANS WILL HATE THEM.
ANYWAY, THEIR SONGS AREN'T THE TYPE THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WANT TO SING AT KARAOKE.
BUT NOW THESE NEW BANDS DELUDE THEM-SELVES AND PRETEND TO BE ARTISTS. I CAN'T TAKE IT...
A WORLD RULED BY A GOODY-GOODY BAND LIKE TRAPNEST IS SO BORING.
I JUST WANT TO BREAK TAKUMI'S FACE!
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE A CRITIC?!
SHUT UP!
....
THE HUDDLED MASSES ALWAYS LOOK TO THE TABLOIDS...
...TO TELL THEM WHAT TO THINK!

I SOLD HALF THE SCOOP TO A TV STATION.
THEY WERE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DEVELOP MY SCENARIO, AND THEY'RE PAYING ME NICELY FOR IT.
I SEE YOU'RE LINING YOUR OWN POCKETS AGAIN.
YOU NEVER CARED ABOUT AN EXCLUSIVE STORY.
MONEY TALKS...
WELL, AT ANY RATE, I CAN'T WAIT FOR TOMORROW'S MEDIA CIRCUS.
TIME TO WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!
HUH?
DOESN'T SEARCH HIT THE STANDS THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW?

YOU KNOW IT. ♡
MY GOAL IS ALWAYS TO INCREASE BUSINESS... TO SELL MORE COPIES OF OUR MAGAZINE!
WHEN THE TV SHOW BREAKS THEIR LOVE SCANDAL, IT WORKS UP PUBLIC INTEREST, THEN EVERYONE WILL JUMP AT OUR PHOTOS AND STORY!
OH ...
YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF THEM TOGETHER?
SSSSHH...
I WAITED FOR HACHI IN FRONT OF HER BUILDING UNTIL THE SUN WENT DOWN...
EXCEL SHIROKANE
TICKETS
beep
SODDAMMIT.
NOW I REALLY AM TURNING INTO A STALKER.
BUT I NEVER SAW HER.
I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW WHEN I GET OFF WORK.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.
IF I GET HER PHONE NUMBER FROM YASU, I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HER.
I'LL HAVE A LITTLE TIME BEFORE PRACTICE.
THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW.


THE ONLY TIME I GO OUT IS FOR GROCERIES AND MY DOCTOR APPOINT-MENTS.
YOU'RE RIGHT ...

YEAH!
YOU CAN MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND IT MIGHT BE FUN.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A CLASS OR SOME-THING?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
GOOD THING YOU TOLD ME!
THANKS, MAN!

HOUSE-WIVES ARE HUNGRY FOR SOMEONE TO TALK TO!
...BUT I'M GLAD WE GOT TO TALK ABOUT THINGS.
I'M SORRY I TALKED YOUR EARS OFF..
....
YOU SHOULDN'T JUST STAY HOME ALL DAY, THINKING ABOUT YOUR BABY. YOU HAVE TO KEEP CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, TOO.

I KNOW THAT SOMEDAY, BLAST IS GOING TO RULE JAPAN!
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
EVEN WITH HARD WORK, IMPOSSIBLE THINGS ARE STILL IMPOSSIBLE.
AND GO EASY ON THE LADIES.
WORK HARD ON THE BAND, SHIN...
HEH... YEAH...
CALL ME ANYTIME.
...LET US MEET AGAIN, AVOIDING THE EYES OF YOUR HUSBAND.
THEN MADAM...
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah

HEY, SHIN ?!
HOW'S NOBU DOING?

IT'S SO LOUD, I CAN'T SLEEP.
HE JUST PLAYS GUITAR ALL THE TIME.
I HOPE TOMOR-ROW'S A SUNNY DAY.
I'M LOOKING FOR-WARD TO THE SUNRISE.

BRING
Click
STOMP
ugh
.....

OWWW!
OOPS!
SORRY, DUDE.
I DIDN'T KNOW...
SLAM
SIGH
HE JUST WENT TO BED!
SEVEN AM?!
HOW CAN HE FUNCTION LIKE THAT?
CLICK
I HOPE I DON'T GET ANY WORK TODAY.
snatch
THE HOUSE-WIVES ALWAYS WANT ME OVER EARLY.
tweet tweet
.....

click
CHANNEL NANA?
WAKE UP, DUDE!
THERE AIN'T NO NANA CHANNEL.
Nana=7
click
Good morning, Japan!
Welcome to "Seven in the Morning"...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE WATCHING YOUR OWN VIDEO FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
WOW, NO WAY!
AWESOME!
UH...
IT'S NOT A VIDEO. WE'RE ON TV.
Ren Honjo has a girlfriend
The guitarist of the massively popular band Trapnest...
...Ren Honjo, has a girlfriend!
Sorry ladies!
This girlfriend used to play in a band with Ren and is the lead singer of the punk band Black Stones, who will be making their major label debut soon on Gaia Records!

Her name is Nana Osaki!
7
...WHEN THE SKY CLEARED AND THE SPOTLIGHT WAS SUDDENLY ON US...
FROM THAT DAY ON...

...NOT ON THE STAGE, BUT IN THE RING.
...WE FOUND OUR-SELVES STAND-ING...
THE CHEERS AND JEERS...
...STILL RING IN MY HEAD...
...LOUD AND ANNOYING.

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T HAVE A TV OR A PHONE IN MY ROOM.

THAT'S WHY I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO MISSED THE BEGINNING OF THE MEDIA CIRCUS...

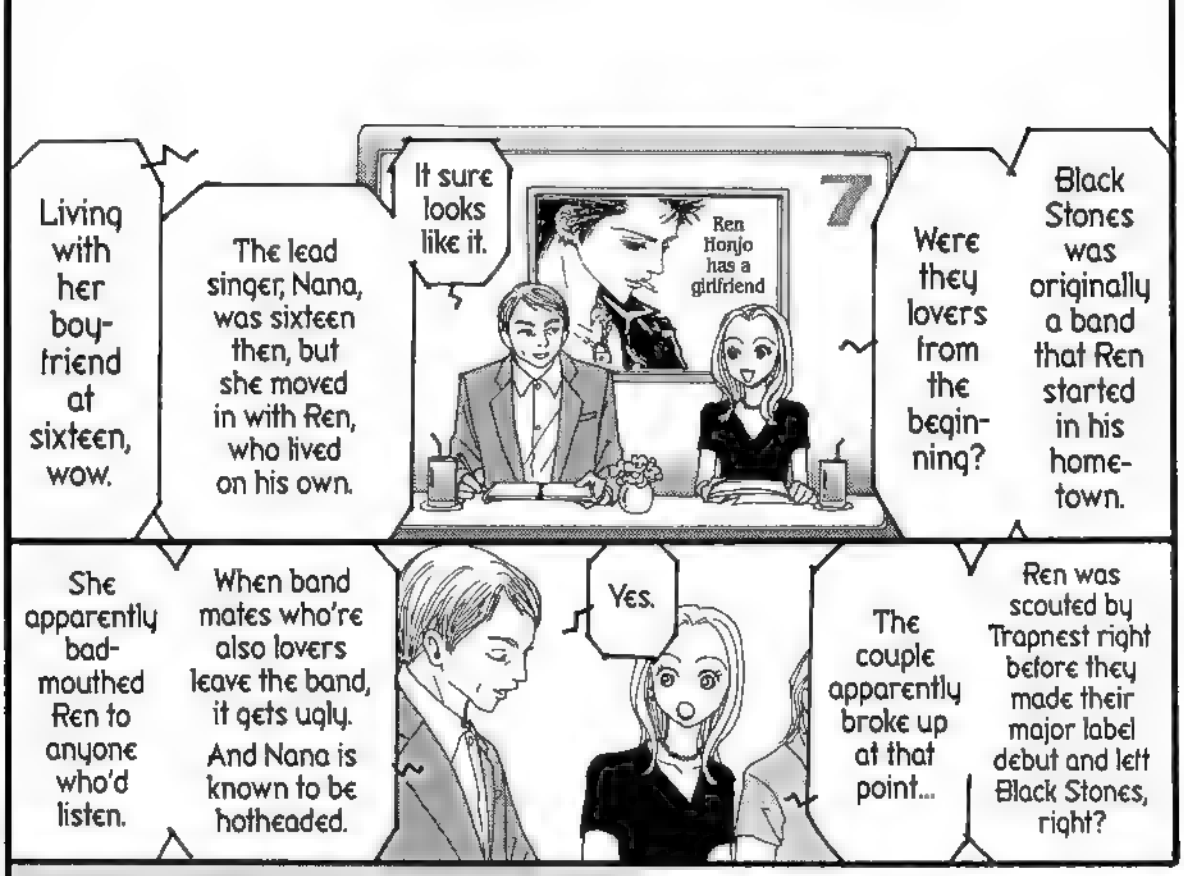
...WHICH PISSED ME OFF ROYALLY.

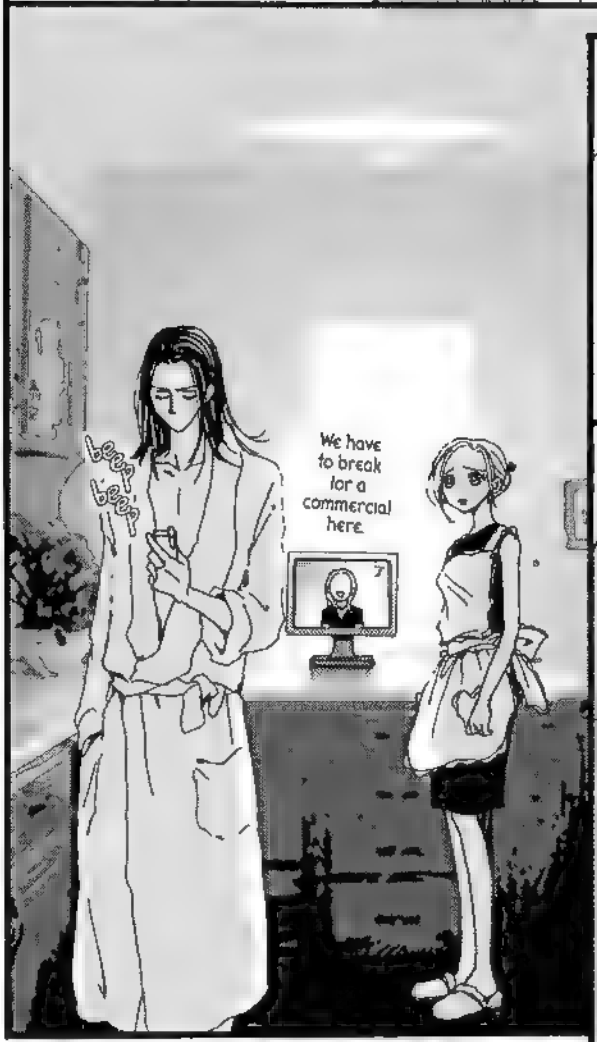
NANA

Ring ring!
KYO-SUKE!
GET UP! TURN ON THE TV!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S TOO EARLY TO EVEN THINK.

THE GURU'S ON TV!
Ren Honjo's Girlfriend!
7
GOOPAMMIT.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
JUST HURRY UP AND TURN IT ON!
YOU'LL GET IT THEN!
HEY, ISN'T THAT NANA'S HOT ROOMMATE?
AHHH
No way!
How did Nana's friend get with REN?!
I CAN'T HEAR THE TV!
SHUT IT, NAMI!
OH MY!
I THINK SHE'S SERIOUSLY BEAUTIFUL RATHER THAN JUST "HOT"...
AND SHE LOOKS GREAT ON TV TOO.
YOU'RE RIGHT ...
Ren Honjo's Girlfriend!

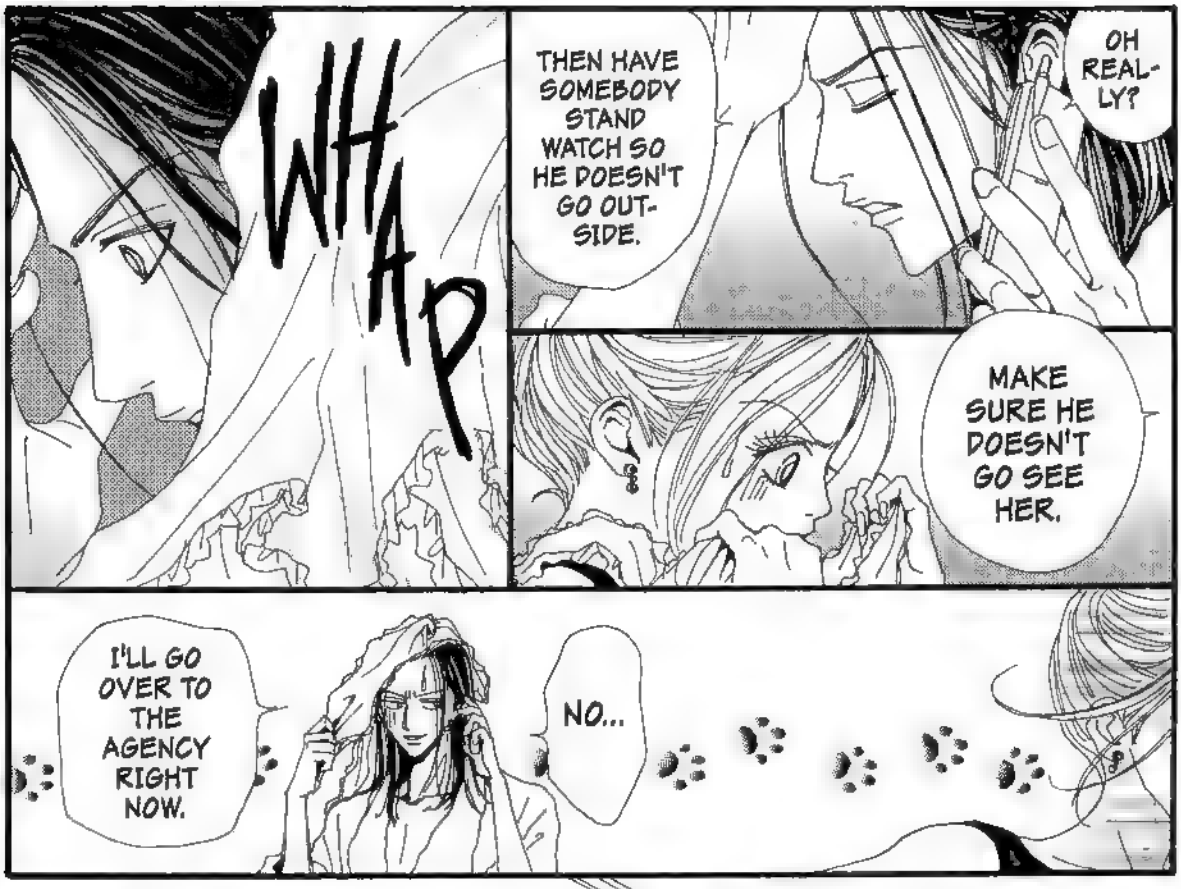
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ?!
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
WHO IS IT ?!
WHAT KIND OF FATHER ARE YOU?!
WHO IS IT?!
SHE SAID HE'S IN THE MUSIC BIZ, RIGHT?
WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN THE GUY WHO KNOCKED NANA UP IS FAMOUS, TOO?!
NAMI!
YOU PRETEND TO BE LIBERAL TO HIDE YOUR JEALOUSY.
OH, I SEE ...
DAMMIT! DO WHAT YOU WANT!
ANY GUY WHO KNOCKS UP MY DAUGHTER HAS TO BE BAD NEWS!
HE'S COMING TO MEET US ON SUNDAY, SO BE NICE.
WELL, I HOPE HE WORKS FOR A RESPECT-ABLE COMPANY.
WHAT A LETCH!
HEH HEH
BAM
TAKUMI!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THIS!
WOW
HE'S COMING OVER ?!
REALLY?


Living with her boyfriend at sixteen, wow.
The lead singer, Nana, was sixteen then, but she moved in with Ren, who lived on his own.
It sure looks like it.
7
Ren Honjo has a girlfriend
Were they lovers from the beginning?
Black Stones was originally a band that Ren started in his hometown.
She apparently bad-mouthed Ren to anyone who'd listen.
When band mates who're also lovers leave the band, it gets ugly.
And Nana is known to be hotheaded.
Yes.
The couple apparently broke up at that point...
Ren was scouted by Trapnest right before they made their major label debut and left Black Stones, right?


beep beep
We have to break for a commercial here.
7

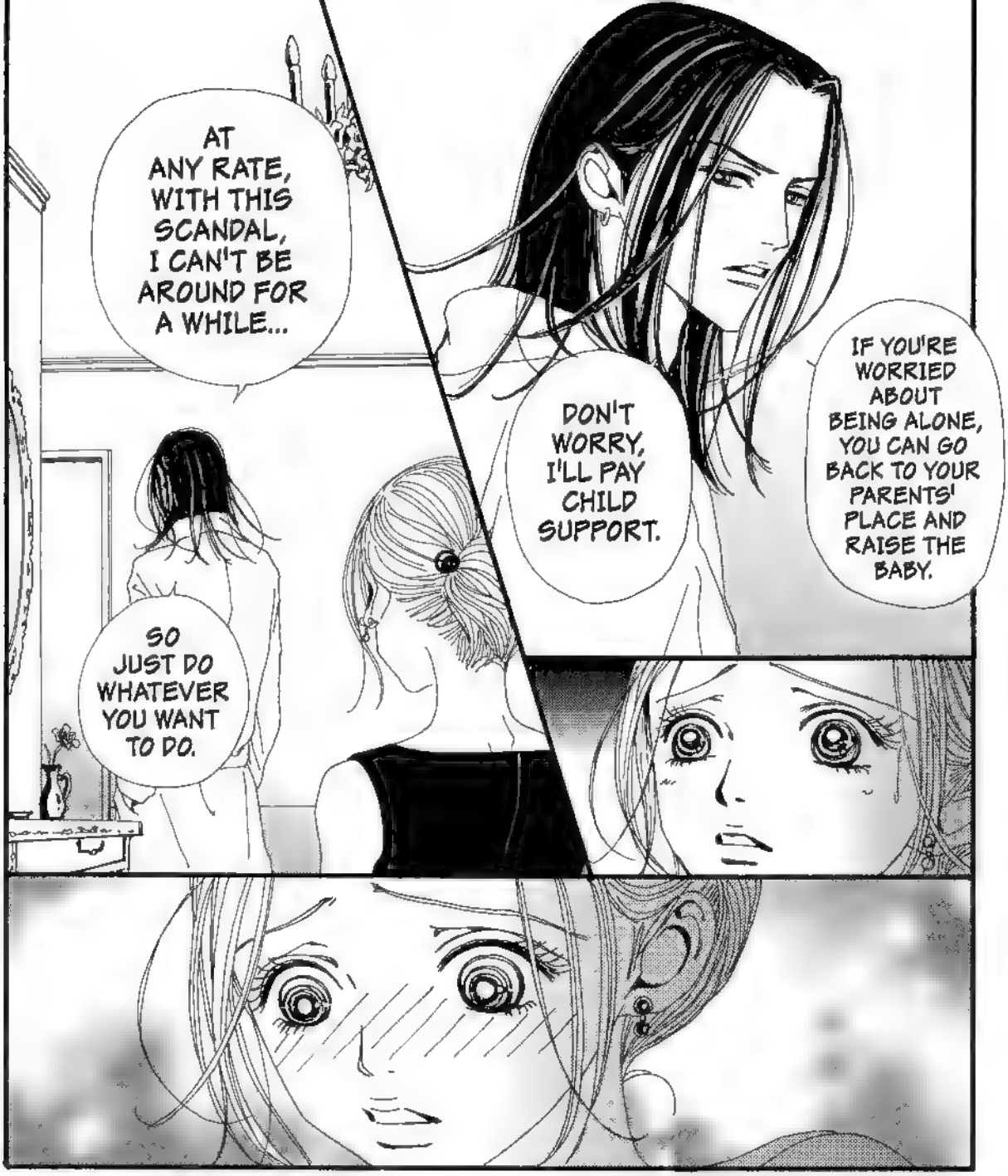
THAT'S SO NOT TRUE!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT!
OH SHUT UP! YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO THAT CRAP!

TAKE?
HEY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT DOESN'T MATTER?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THIS MESS" ?!
THIS SUCKS. IT HAD TO HAPPEN WHEN WE'RE TOO BUSY TO DEAL WITH IT. GIMME A BREAK.
I'M WATCH-ING IT.
YEAH ...
....
SHUT UP!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
BUT HE HAD TO HAVE HIS LITTLE GIRLFRIEND AND GET US IN THIS MESS.
I WARNED REN TO BE CAREFUL SO MANY TIMES...
HE BETTER NOT BE WITH HIS LADY.
SO WHERE'S REN?
NO, SORRY. IT'S NOTH-ING.
"SHUT UP"?!
.....


WHAP
THEN HAVE SOMEBODY STAND WATCH SO HE DOESN'T GO OUT-SIDE.
OH REAL-LY?
MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GO SEE HER.
I'LL GO OVER TO THE AGENCY RIGHT NOW.
NO...

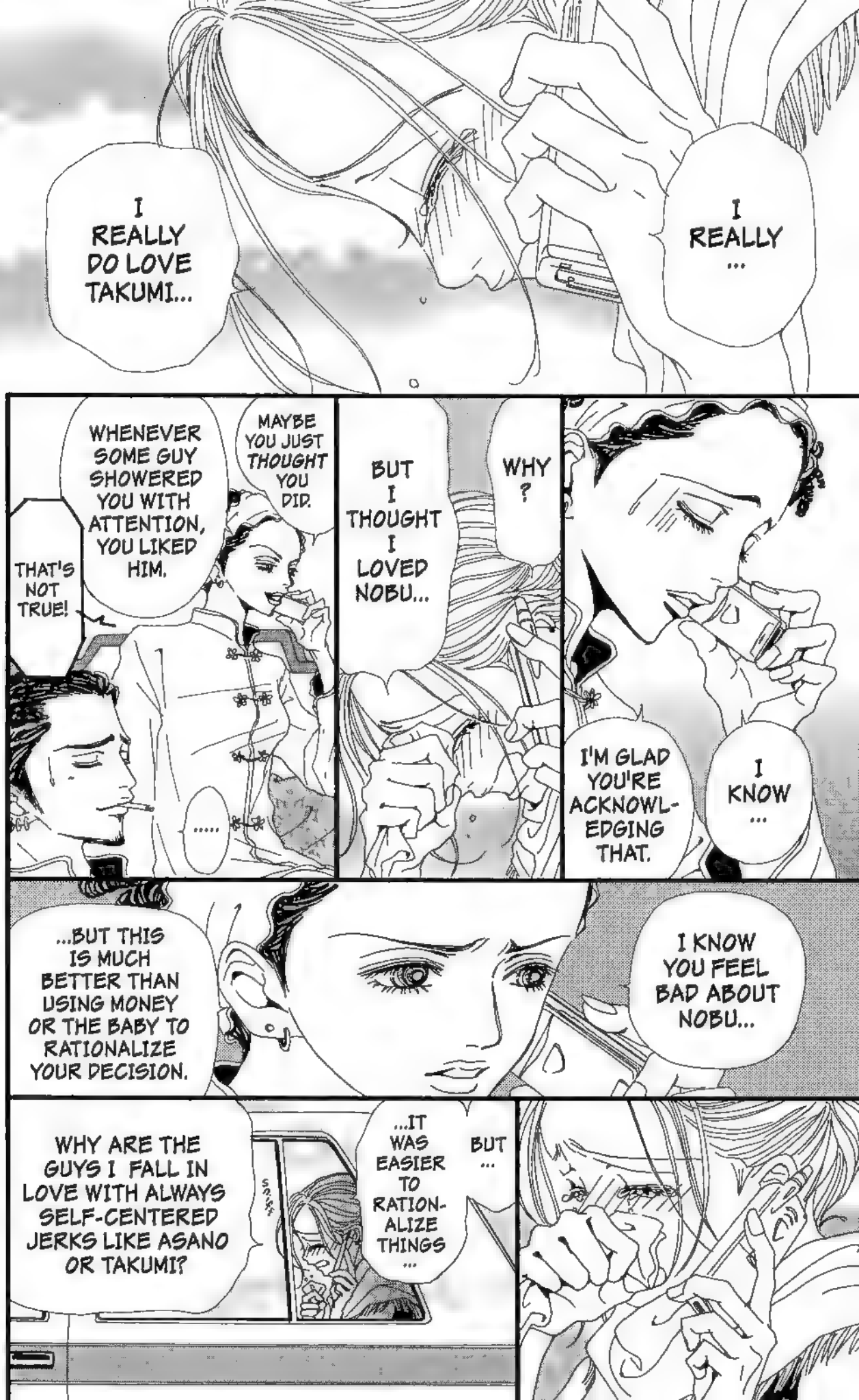
TAKUMI, THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY WRONG WITH YOU AS A PERSON!
BUT SHE'S MY FRIEND!
I'M GOING HOME TO SEE HOW NANA'S DOING.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PLEASE JUST STAY OUT OF THIS.
Snap
NANA?

IF YOU REALLY THINK THAT, THEN WHY ARE YOU MARRYING ME?
IF THE FATHER'S BAD, THE BABY WILL GROW UP TO BE BAD, TOO.
I'M THE PERFECT EXAMPLE.
JUST HAVING TWO PARENTS ISN'T ENOUGH.


AT ANY RATE, WITH THIS SCANDAL, I CAN'T BE AROUND FOR A WHILE...
SO JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL PAY CHILD SUPPORT.
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BEING ALONE, YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR PARENTS' PLACE AND RAISE THE BABY.

IS YOUR TAKUMI LIKE... TAKUMI FROM *TRAPNEST*?!
HELLO, NANA?!

Vrrrooom
....
NO ...
WHY WOULD IT BE HIM?
YOU'RE LYING!
DON'T LIE TO ME!
IF IT'S TRUE, NOW EVERY-THING MAKES SENSE!
WHY DID YOU HIDE IT FROM ME?!
I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT MUCH OF A BLABBER MOUTH?
JUN... I— I'M...
WHY'RE YOU CRYING?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
....
...NOT GETTING MARRIED JUST 'CAUSE OF THE BABY...
I KNOW...


I REALLY ...
I REALLY DO LOVE TAKUMI...
WHY ?
BUT I THOUGHT I LOVED NOBU...
MAYBE YOU JUST THOUGHT YOU DID.
WHENEVER SOME GUY SHOWERED YOU WITH ATTENTION, YOU LIKED HIM.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
.....
I KNOW ...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ACKNOWL-EDGING THAT.
I KNOW YOU FEEL BAD ABOUT NOBU...
...BUT THIS IS MUCH BETTER THAN USING MONEY OR THE BABY TO RATIONALIZE YOUR DECISION.
BUT ...
...IT WAS EASIER TO RATION-ALIZE THINGS ...
SNIFF
WHY ARE THE GUYS I FALL IN LOVE WITH ALWAYS SELF-CENTERED JERKS LIKE ASANO OR TAKUMI?

IF I HADN'T WORN OUT SHOJI'S PATIENCE WITH ME, THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN GOOD— IT COULD'VE WORKED...
hiccup
WHY CAN'T I FALL IN LOVE WITH PEOPLE WHO VALUE ME...
...LIKE SHOJI OR NOBU?
I DON'T KNOW.
sigh
.....
I THOUGHT SHE FORGOT HE EXISTED ...
WHY'S SHE TALKING ABOUT SHOJI NOW?
blush
.....
"IT COULD'VE WORKED" ?!
SHE STILL THINKS ABOUT HIM?
SHE LIKED ASANO THAT MUCH?
IF I'M LIKE THIS, I'LL NEVER BE HAPPY MY WHOLE LIFE.
....
PLEASE. CALM HER DOWN!
SOME-HOW?
SAY NICE THINGS!
snikk
snikk
WHAT?!
SHOVE

HELLO, NANA?
IF TRAPNEST IS IN THE MIDDLE OF SUCH A SCANDAL ...
...WON'T YOUR MARRIAGE BE PUT ON HOLD, TOO?
sniff
WAAAA!
TAKUMI, I HATE YOU!
YOU BASTARD!
JUST COME OVER HERE RIGHT NOW.
YOU CAN LET IT ALL OUT WITH US.
ALL RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT CLASS?

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
I REALLY JUST WANT TO GO SEE NANA.
I'LL BE OKAY ...
NO ...
...
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO OVER THERE...
LEAVING NOTES AND LETTERS DON'T WORK.
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HER AND MAKE UP.
WHAT?
TO THE APART-MENT?
I WAS JUST REST-ING MY EYES ...
IT'S ONLY NANA ...
NO, YOU SHOULDN'T GO OVER THERE RIGHT NOW.
WHY NOT?
We're in front of the apartment where Nana from Blast lives...
Ren Honjo's Girlfriend!
THE PAPARAZZI ARE ALL OVER THAT PLACE.
OH NO...
WHAT THE HELL?!
Ding don—g

Ding don—g
I'M LATE!
WORK!
DAMN!
Ding don—g
I DON'T TAKE SOLICI-TORS!
WHAT ?
WE'RE HERE FROM SEARCH.
WHO IS IT?!
HOLD ON!
WHO'S RINGING MY BELL THIS DAMN EARLY?!
YOU'RE NANA OSAKI, RIGHT?

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MR. REN HONJO.
SHE'S NOT EVEN A CELEB-RITY... YET!
I CAN UNDERSTAND THEM GOING TO REN'S PLACE, BUT WHY ARE THEY STALKING THE GURU'S PLACE, TOO?!
IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD. THEY MIGHT HAVE FIGURED OUT THAT NANA HAD A ROOMMATE...
SO NANA ...
SHE SHOULD DEFINITELY SUE THEM!
WHAT ABOUT YASU?!
ISN'T HE A LAWYER ?!
THEY KEEP SHOWING THE LIVE FOOTAGE FROM THEIR SHOW... IT'S WEIRD.
IT'S A COOL OLD BUILDING, AND WITH THE SURROUND-INGS IN THE SHOT, PEOPLE WILL FIGURE OUT WHERE IT IS.
Do some-THING!

THE PAPARAZZI MIGHT CORNER YOU.
I KNOW YOU WANT TO SEE HER, BUT BE LOGICAL.
THINK WHAT'D HAPPEN IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT YOU AND TAKUMI.
YOU NEVER KNOW HOW IT'D PLAY OUT IN THE MEDIA, WHAT IT'D DO TO TAKUMI...
YOU BETTER NOT GO OVER THERE.
BUT NANA ...
YOU SHOULDN'T LET THE MEDIA FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE.
AND HOW HARD IT MIGHT BE ON YOU AND THE BABY.

PLEASE JUST STAY OUT OF THIS.

KNOCK KNOCK
MS. NANA OSAKI?
SEARCH...
LIKE THE TABLOID SEARCH?
PLEASE OPEN UP AND LET US INTERVIEW YOU!
IF A SKANKY RAG LIKE THAT FOUND OUT, WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO WRITE!
GODDAMMIT!
WE SAW THE CHANNEL 7 EXPOSÉ.
CHANNEL 7?!
IF YOU DON'T TRY TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF TO THE PUBLIC, THINGS WILL JUST GET WORSE AND WORSE.
....
EX-PLAIN WHAT?!

IF YOU CAN LIVE WITH THAT ...
I DON'T GET IT. ARE THEY THREATEN-ING ME?
Let's take a look at Blast's live concert footage again...
As can be expected from a band Ren formerly played in, they're totally cool ♡
Their debut single is scheduled to be released on Gaia Records soon.
We're look-ing for-ward to it!
.....
NOBU...
THIS IS TOTALLY INSANE.

THEY'RE CREATING A SCANDAL ...
...TO PROMOTE OUR NEW ALBUM.
Ding dong
NOBU!
KNOCK KNOCK
SHIN!

CREAK
YOU'RE HERE.
MR. KAWA-NO!
OH...
YEAH, SORRY.
PEOPLE KEPT CALLING, SO WE TURNED THEM OFF.
I WAS WORRIED 'CAUSE NEITHER OF YOU ANSWERED YOUR CELL PHONES.
FLIP
SO I GUESS YOU SAW IT ON TV?
THEN I DON'T NEED TO EX-PLAIN ...
I HAVE A CAR WAITING OUTSIDE, SO GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER.
YEAH ...
....
HUH ?
WHAT THINGS ?
YOU NEED TO HIDE OUT AT A HOTEL UNTIL THINGS BLOW OVER.
I'M SURE THE PAPARAZZI WILL START HARASSING YOU NEXT.

...
I'M HAVING YASU TAKE CARE OF NANA.
THEY'LL FIGURE OUT SOME DECENT WAY TO DEAL WITH THE MEDIA. DON'T WORRY.
BUT MR. KAWANO, WHAT ABOUT NANA?
JUST HURRY UP.
WE'LL TALK IN THE CAR.
WAIT A MIN-UTE! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHY'S OUR RECORD SUDDENLY COMING OUT NOW?
THAT WAS THE VIDEO WE SENT YOU, RIGHT?
DID GAIA HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT TV SHOW?!
WITH THIS FEEDING FRENZY, NANA WON'T WANT TO SING!
DON'T WORRY?!
I JUST...
DON'T THINK I CAN TRUST ANYONE ANYMORE...
NO ...
YOU SENT THAT VIDEO AS PROMOTION TO OTHER AGENCIES, RIGHT?
I'M SORRY, BUT HOW CAN WE TRUST YOU, MR. KAWANO?
YOUR SWEET TALK IS A PACK OF LIES!

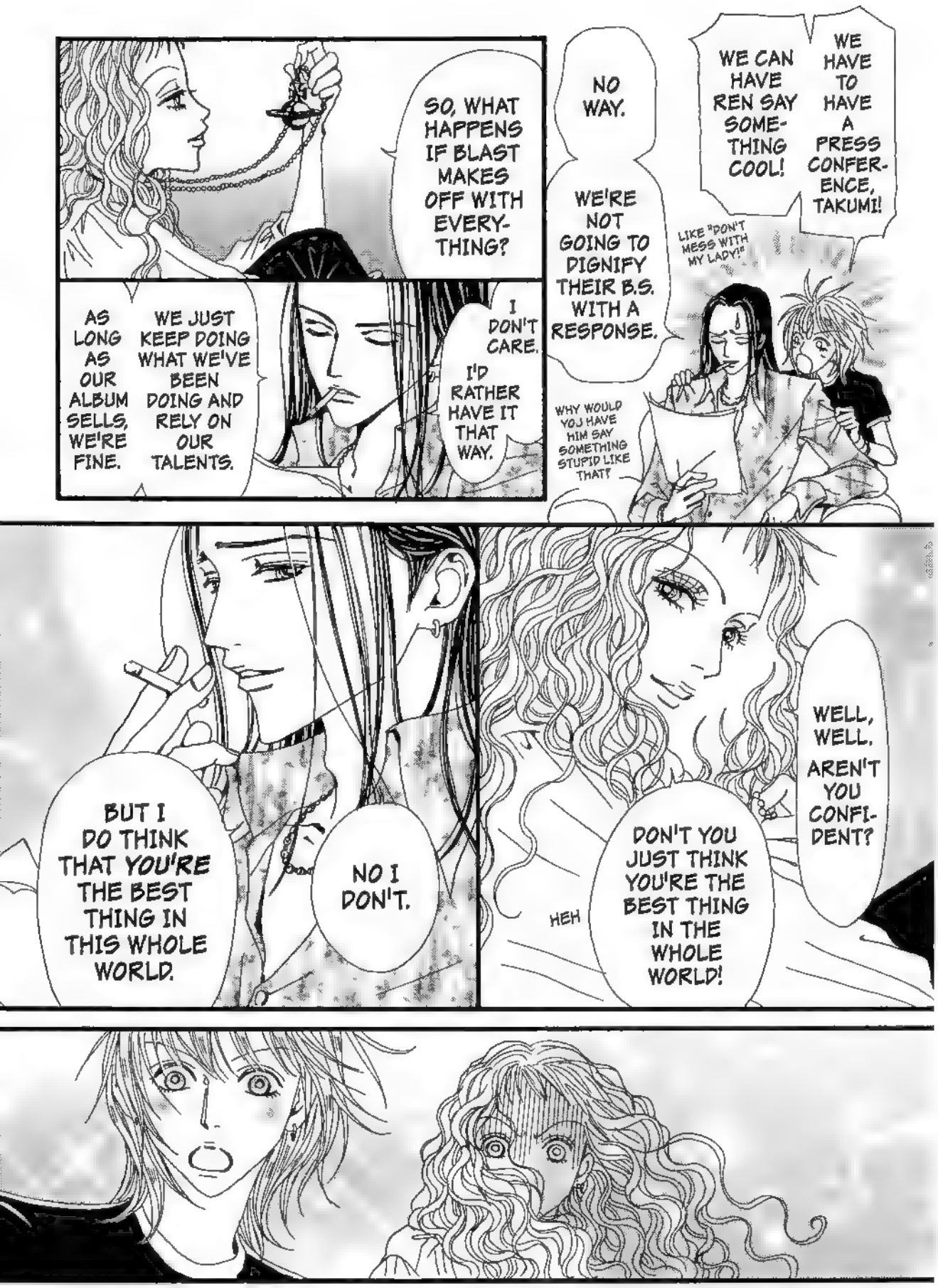
HOW'S NOBU DOING?
THIS MORNING, SOMEONE CALLED BOTH YASU AND ME—WITH CALLER ID BLOCKED—AND JUST SAID, "WATCH SEVEN IN THE MORNING."
BUT THEY'VE SET IT UP SO YOU GUYS ARE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
WHOEVER DID THIS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE COOKING UP...
....
THAT'S SO CREEPY!
WHAT THE HELL?! A THREATENING PHONE CALL!
WHAT?!
CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE'S GOAL MIGHT BE TO DESTROY US INSTEAD OF PROMOTING US.
NOBU, IT'S NOT NECESSARILY A PROMOTION.
ONLY GAIA CAN PROFIT FROM THIS FREE PROMOTION OF OUR BAND, RIGHT?
SO WHO'D DO THIS EXCEPT GAIA?

EVERYONE WHO SAW IT ON TV WILL THINK IT'S WEIRD.
3
Click-Click
YOU'RE A MEMBER OF BLACK STONES, RIGHT?
DID YOU SEE SEVEN IN THE MORNING?
blah
REALLY? IT'S LIVE!
ARE WE ON TV?
blah
blah
HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN TRAPNEST STOLE REN AWAY FROM YOUR BAND?
IS IT TRUE THAT NANA PUT THAT PADLOCK ON REN?
REN'S GIRL-FRIEND'S BAND MATE!
WHAT?! LOOK!
HAVE YOU FINISHED RECORD-ING THE ALBUM YET?
WHEN WILL YOU DROP THE SINGLE?
blah
blah

...AS A PUBLICITY STUNT TO PROFIT FROM TRAPNEST'S POPULARITY?
DO YOU THINK NANA SOLD THIS SCOOP HERSELF...
Buzzz
YOU SCUM-BAGS ...

IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME TO TRAMPLE ON OTHER PEOPLE'S GARDENS...
...THEN WHY DON'T YOU MAKE YOUR OWN FLOWERS BLOOM?
SLAM
....
IDIOT.
NOW THE PRESS WILL HATE HIM.
UH OH.
.....
TRAPNE
Ren Honjo's G.rlfriend'
Well, that's it for now!
That was live from Ren's girlfriend Nana's apartment building!
WIDE 8

He's so coool! ♡
I LOVE YOU!
...
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU BALDY, BALDY!
AWW... SO YASU REALLY IS THE COOL-EST! ♡
TAKUMI?!
NOW I WANNA BE YASU!
BUT I DON'T WANNA BE BALD!
WHAT CAN I DO?
IF THIS IS ABOUT REN HAVING A GIRL-FRIEND, WHY DO THEY KEEP TALK-ING ABOUT BLAST INSTEAD OF US?
Pout
BUT IT'S KIND OF LAME, TOO.
IT'S KIND OF COOL.
ALL THE GOSSIP SHOWS ARE DOING THE SAME STORY.
WOW, REN'S REALLY FAMOUS!
.....
GIRLFRIEND!
WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD NEWS, I JUST WANNA BE IN IT!
WELL ...
OOOH... JEALOUS MUCH, NAOKI?
....
IT MEANS THE WORLD'S A PEACE-FUL PLACE.


SO, WHAT HAPPENS IF BLAST MAKES OFF WITH EVERY-THING?
I DON'T CARE. I'D RATHER HAVE IT THAT WAY.
WE JUST KEEP DOING WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING AND RELY ON OUR TALENTS.
AS LONG AS OUR ALBUM SELLS, WE'RE FINE.
NO WAY.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO DIGNIFY THEIR B.S. WITH A RESPONSE.
WE HAVE TO HAVE A PRESS CONFER-ENCE, TAKUMI!
WE CAN HAVE REN SAY SOME-THING COOL!
LIKE "DON'T MESS WITH MY LADY!"
WHY WOULD YOU HAVE HIM SAY SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT?
WELL, WELL. AREN'T YOU CONFI-DENT?
DON'T YOU JUST THINK YOU'RE THE BEST THING IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
HEH
NO I DON'T.
BUT I DO THINK THAT *YOU'RE* THE BEST THING IN THIS WHOLE WORLD.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
NANA!
THIS IS THE WORST THING EVER!
It's too much pressure!
I hate you!
ALL RIGHT.
OH, MARI!
MORE COFFEE PLEASE.
I NEVER WANTED TO BECOME A HOUSEHOLD NAME AS REN'S STUPID GIRLFRIEND.
IF YOU TALK TO ME, I'LL WRITE A FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE EXPLAINING YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT?
RUMOR HAS IT THAT THIS IS ALL A PUBLICITY STUNT.
I'M FINISHED.
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
DON'T SAY MY NAME LIKE YOU KNOW ME!
NANA!
KNOCK KNOCK
THEY DON'T STOP, DO THEY?

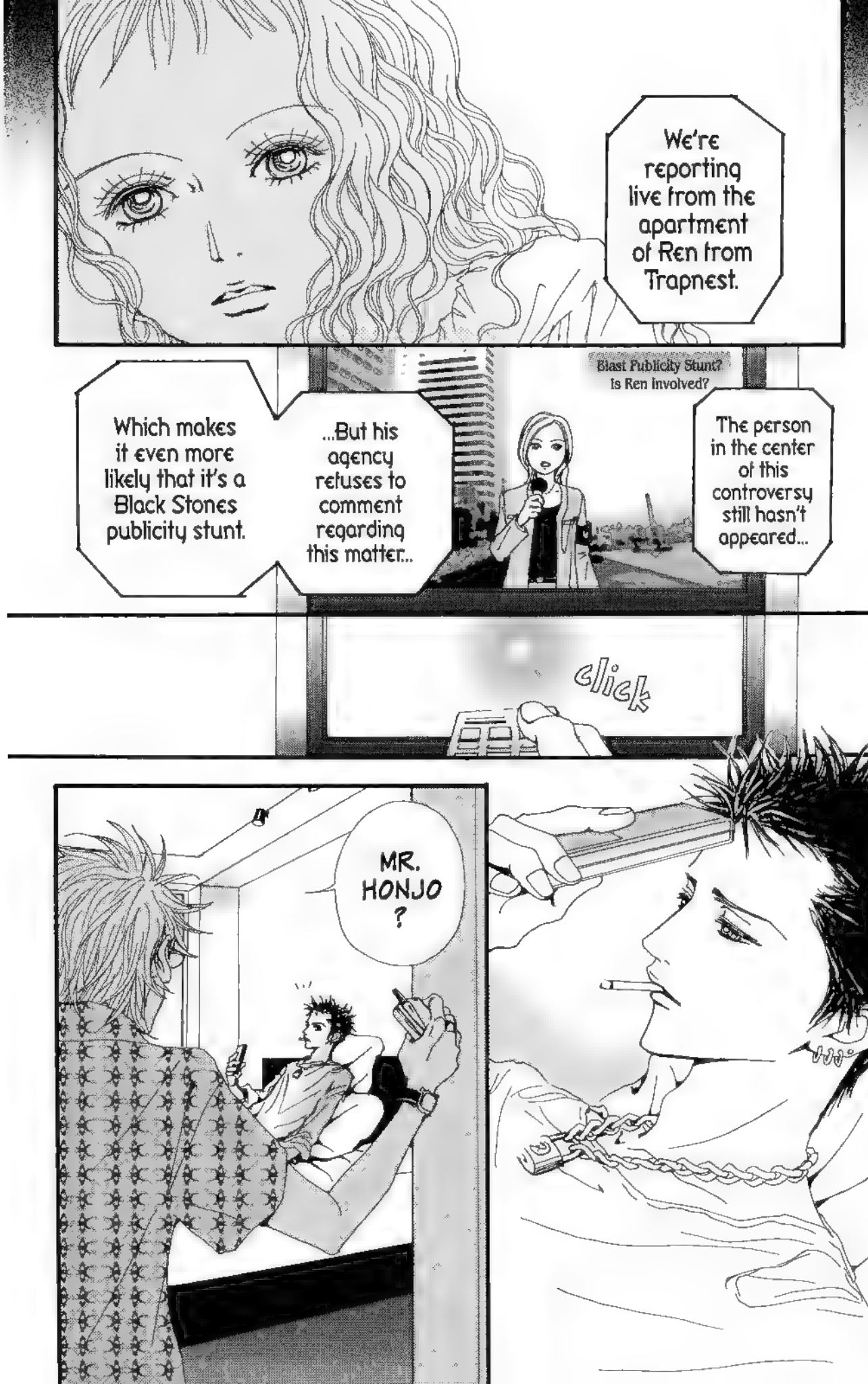
VAMPIRES LIKE YOU RUIN EVERY-THING!
HEY!
YOU'RE BLACK STONES!—
WHAT? WE'RE JUST GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR YOUR NAME...
DON'T START WITH ME!
GET OUT OF HERE!

SMASH
thud
DON'T TREAT US LIKE IDIOTS.
DON'T YOU EVER GET NEAR OUR SINGER AGAIN.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOUR BOSS AT THE LAW FIRM, YOU BETTER START WRITING YOUR LETTER OF RESIG-NATION!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE I'M GOING TO WRITE ABOUT THIS, TOO!
slam
creak
click
knock
NANA?

SMACK
HUH?
OW!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU IDIOT!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
THINK ABOUT YOUR CAREER, BALDY!
IT'S NOT WORTH WASTING YOUR FUTURE OVER!
NO ONE'S GOING TO HIRE A LAWYER WHO'S BEEN BUSTED FOR ASSAULT!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN A LOT OF TROUBLE!
C'MON... DON'T CRY.
I'M JUST THEIR GRUNT, SO IF I GET CANNED, NO ONE WILL REALLY CARE.
NAW...
I GUESS NOW I CAN GAMBLE ALL I WANT.
I'LL BE FINE.

THIS GUY'S A FOOL.
NOBU JUST PLAYS GUITAR ALL DAY AND NIGHT, EVEN THOUGH HIS PARENTS DISOWNED HIM AND HIS GIRLFRIEND DITCHED HIM.
HE'LL NEVER LEARN.
IF WE DON'T WATCH OUT, SHIN'LL DIVE STRAIGHT DOWN THE ROAD TO RUIN...
WE'RE A BAND OF FOOLS.
...I HAVE NO FUTURE.
AND IF I CAN'T SING...


We're reporting live from the apartment of Ren from Trapnest.
Blast Publicity Stunt? Is Ren involved?
The person in the center of this controversy still hasn't appeared...
...But his agency refuses to comment regarding this matter...
Which makes it even more likely that it's a Black Stones publicity stunt.
click
MR. HONJO ?

I'm getting de-ported ?!
"GET ON THE AFTER-NOON FLIGHT TO THE UK."
ORDERS FROM THE AGENCY ...
AM I A CRIMINAL ?!
WHAT LAW AM I BREAKING NOW?
THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY...
NO, IT'S FOR THE CD COVER AND PROMO PHOTO SHOOT.
WE'RE MOVING IT TO ENGLAND 'CAUSE OF ALL THE SCANDAL BABBLE.
YOU'LL BE THERE A COUPLE WEEKS, SO YOU'LL HAVE SOME TIME FOR A LITTLE R&R.
YOUR BAND MATES AND STAFF WILL LEAVE TOMOR-ROW...
BUT YOU AND MR. TAKEDA HAVE TO TAKE OFF TODAY.
I'LL DRIVE YOU TO THE AIRPORT.
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL START GETTING READY.
IF I'M WITH TAKE, IT'LL BE NICE AND QUIET.
UM... MR. HONJO ?

SHE'S HARD-CORE.
THE MORE I TRY TO DEFEND HER IN PUBLIC, THE MORE MISERABLE SHE'LL GET.
WELL, THE PROBLEM IS, MY GIRLFRIEND HAS A LOT OF PRIDE.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS JUST DO WHAT THE AGENCY TELLS YOU TO?
I DOUBT THAT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT BACK, I WON'T STOP YOU.
DON'T YOU WANT TO STAY AND DEFEND YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, MR. HONJO.
A SCHEDULE CHANGE LIKE THIS MUST HAVE BEEN TAKUMI'S IDEA.
WHY'RE WE GOING THERE AGAIN?
NO, SHE REALLY IS LIKE THAT.
IT'S A CORPORATION INVOLVING THE AGENCY, THE RECORD COMPANY, AND OTHER COMPANIES.
TRAP-NEST ISN'T JUST TAKUMI'S EMPIRE ANY-MORE.
I CAN'T JUST DO WHAT-EVER I WANT ANY-MORE.
I DON'T THINK YOU GET IT.
KINO-SHITA ...
THIS BAND ISN'T JUST FOR FUN.

...SHARES THIS GOAL AND RESPONSI-BILITY.
MY BAND...
...ISN'T MY OLD FRIENDS OR PAST BAND-MATES.
WHAT I HAVE TO PROTECT NOW...
TRAPNEST
TRIGGER
click click

NANA!
PLEASE MAKE A COMMENT!
DID YOU GET BACK WITH REN TO USE HIM FOR HIS FAME AND FORTUNE?
WHEN REN GOT PICKED UP BY TRAPNEST, DID YOU TELL HIM OFF AND BREAK UP WITH HIM?
NANA!
REN REFUSES TO COMMENT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?
ARE YOU HAPPY THAT YOU'RE GETTING PUBLICITY, AS PLANNED?
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THINGS ANY WORSE.
I DON'T *HAVE* TO SAY ANYTHING.
REN KNOWS ME WELL, AND I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION HE'S IN.
SAY SOMETHING!
WHAT IDIOTS.

...SOME-
THING
I HAVE
TO SAY
TO GET
THROUGH
...
THERE
IS..
BUT
NOW...
SNATCH
ONE
COM-
MENT!
I WON'T
LET YOU
SCUM-
BAGS
RUIN IT!

I HOPE YOU APPEAR ON TV A LOT...

...SO I CAN SEE YOU SING.

FROM NANA

.....
THAT'S GOOD.
THERE, I SAID IT. NOW I'M DONE.
FLING
?
TAXI
Reporting live from the pad of the person in question, Nana!
vroom
Well, that's all, folks!
HEY, HACHI...
EVERY-ONE MUST THINK HACHI'S A DOG!
SHE REALLY IS FEAR-LESS!
Ah Ha Ha
Ah Ha Ha
AT LEAST THINGS ARE GETTING SIDE-TRACKED...
AND THE NEXT SPECIAL IS "A FEARLESS NANA AND THE MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE TO HER PET DOG!"
NO ONE KNEW WHAT TO THINK!
wag wag

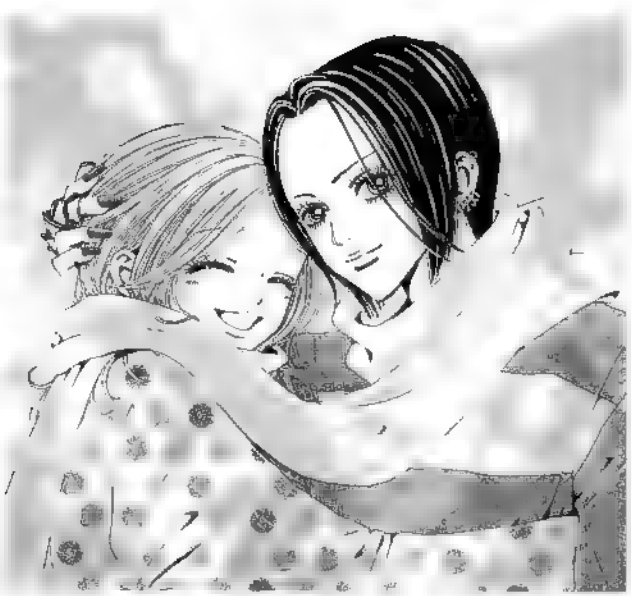
FROM THAT DAY ON...

...I COULD STAND TALL NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I GOT STRUCK DOWN...

...'CAUSE I KNEW YOU WERE ALWAYS WATCHING ME.

Ren Honjo

The sordid past of the beautiful woman who stole the rock-n-roll hero's heart.



BUT I THOUGHT WE COULD WIN.
IT DEFINITELY HAD AN EFFECT...
SOME WEIRD LIVE FOOTAGE SHATTERED A PEACEFUL MORNING, REVEALING A "SCANDALOUS" SINGER WITH CAKED-ON MAKEUP.
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING SUPER SERIOUS OR HORRIBLE HAPPENED TO RAISE ANYONE'S EYEBROWS.

[Chapter 35]

HEY, DID YOU SEE IT ON TV?
TODAY'S "SEVEN IN THE MORNING?"
YEAH!
NANA!
WHO'S NANA?
REN'S GIRLFRIEND.
YEAH, AND I'M PISSED!
NO WAY!
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
SHE'S A TOTAL BITCH.
BUT SHE'S SUPER HOT. ♡
HMMM...
I WANNA SEE! ♡
YOU THINK SHE'S HOT?
SHE LOOKS MEAN.
HUH? WHY?
I THINK SHE PUT A CURSE ON ME!
WHAT CURSE?!

I'M A BIG FAN OF HIS, EVER SINCE I SAW HIS CANNED COFFEE COMMERCIAL!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT REN HONJO?
EXCUSE ME...
HE'S SO COOL! ♡
POOR REN.
IT'S UNFORGIVABLE.
YOUNG GIRLS THESE DAYS HAVE NO SHAME.
TRYING TO GET FAMOUS THROUGH HER BOYFRIEND...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
EXCUSE ME?
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE YOUR OWN FLOWERS BLOOM?!
FLOWER
FLOWER
WHAT ABOUT THE GUITAR PLAYER?!
WHO CARES ABOUT THE BASSIST!
WHAT'S HIS NAME? WHO CARES ABOUT NANA!
THE BASS PLAYER...
NOW, HE'S REALLY CUTE!
I MEAN REALLY REALLY!
I TOTALLY MISSED IT!
WHAT'S THEIR BAND CALLED?
DON'T THEY HAVE A WEBSITE?
kstones
Search
I'm Fee
famous lead
singer
THEY DID THIS ON PURPOSE!
BUT THERE'S ONLY TABLOID GOSSIP ON BLACK STONES.
NOTHING OFFICIAL ANYWHERE.
IT JUST MAKES YOU WANT TO KNOW.
BORED MUCH?
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS SEARCHING FOR?
IT'S SO WEIRD.
THEY'RE NOT LISTED ON GAIA'S WEBSITE EITHER.
EVERY BAND HAS TO HAVE A WEBSITE, IF THEY WANT TO GET ANYWHERE.
HOW COULD BLACK STONES NOT HAVE ONE?

RING
ARE THEY MAKING US DANCE TO THEIR TUNE?
Ring
WE'LL MAKE AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCE-MENT ONCE THE DETAILS ARE ALL SET.
WE DON'T HAVE A RELEASE DATE YET ON THEIR SINGLE.
blah
I'M SORRY ...
blah
HELLO, GAIA RECORDS.
...
tap

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS, MR. KAWANO.
EVEN IF THEY BLOW UP WITH THIS TABLOID CRAP, IT'S JUST A SET UP.
I DON'T KNOW ...
THE PHONES HAVE BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK. EVERYONE'S SUDDENLY CHANGED THEIR MINDS. THEY WANT TO GO FOR IT.
AT THE EMERGENCY MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, THEY'RE GOING TO PUSH TO MAKE A BLAST RECORD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHEN THIS MAGAZINE HITS THE STANDS TOMORROW, NANA WILL GET BASHED EVEN MORE.
Ren Honjo
MATSUO, YOU'VE SEEN GOOD MUSICIANS WHOSE CAREERS WERE DESTROYED BY RELENTLESS SLANDER AND MAJOR LABELS THAT ONLY CARE ABOUT THE BOTTOM LINE.

YOU NEED TO WORK THIS OUT AND DO WHAT THE LABEL WANTS.
BUT WITHOUT YOU IN THE MIX, THAT'S IT.
OBVIOUSLY, SINCE THEY NEVER WARNED YOU ABOUT THIS MEDIA ONSLAUGHT, MR. KAWANO.
UPPER MANAGEMENT DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR REAL OPINION OR COMPLAINTS ...
THE MEDIA KNOWS THAT, AND THEY'RE EATING IT UP.
...THAT OUR COMPANY HAD SOME-THING TO DO WITH THAT TV SHOW.
ANYONE IN THE BIZ, NOT JUST AT GAIA, WOULD HAVE FIGURED OUT...

THE MEDIA CIRCUS HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
WE CAN'T STOP NOW.
THOSE SLIMY COR-PORATE CROOKS!
CRUSH

WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING FOR GAIA YET, BUT THEY HID US HERE.
YOU THINK ?
THIS IS SO RUDE.
YEAH, TOTALLY.
GET US A NICE ROOM OR SUITE LIKE WE DESERVE!
THEY JUST STUFF US IN A CHEAP FLOP-HOUSE LIKE THIS?!
MISATO?!
BUT YEAH, A HOTEL WITH ROOM SERVICE AT LEAST WOULD BE NICE.
I'M HUNGRY!
YEAH, SUSHI! ♡
NO PROB-LEM!
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO GET SOME FOOD?
creak
I'LL BE BACK SOON.

WEL-COME HOME, YASU!
HOW DID IT GO WITH GAIA?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DON'T YOU HAVE SCHOOL?
SHE SAW THE GOSSIP SHOW THIS MORNING AND GOT WORRIED AND RAN OVER HERE.
BUT I'M RELIEVED, 'CAUSE NANA SEEMS TOTALLY FINE.
THAT'S MY MISATO!
THAT'S MY NANA!
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE?
OH...
SUPER SLEUTH...
SHIN E-MAILED ME AND LET ME KNOW.
WELL, THAT WAS AWFULLY CONSIDER-ATE OF YOU.
I KNEW SHE'D COME AND HELP US OUT.
MISATO'S STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE, TOO.
WE CAN'T GO ANY-WHERE, SO WE CAN ASK HER TO RUN ERRANDS FOR US.
I'M IN ROOM 712.
I'M AT YOUR SER-VICE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
.....

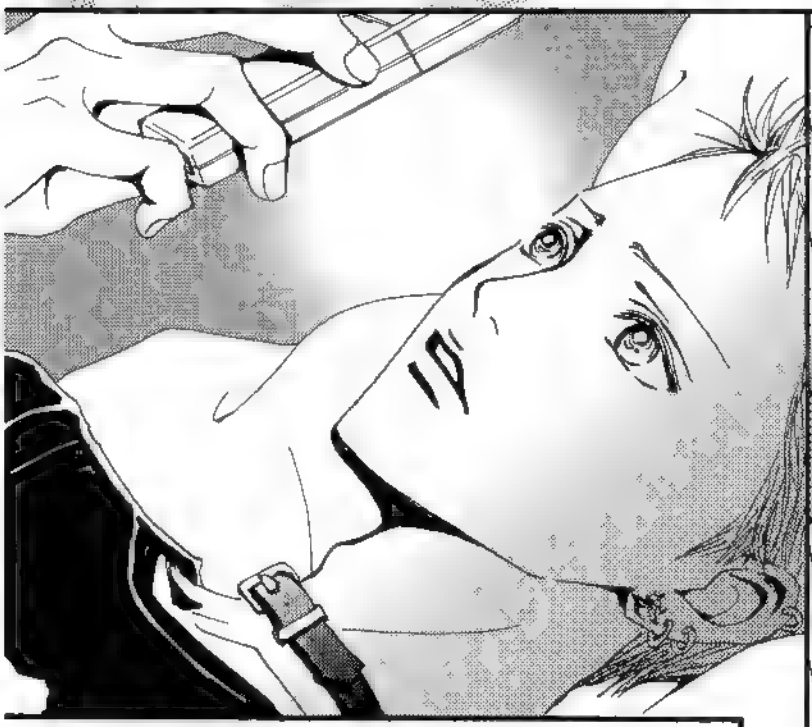
I JUST HAD LUNCH WITH MR. KAWANO.
I'M STUFFED.
OH NO, I CAN'T TAKE YOURS.
Yay! Food!
IT'S GOOD YOU'RE HERE.
DON'T WORRY. EAT IT.
ALRIGHTY THEN.
THIS IS FROM MR. NISHIMOTO AT GAIA.
YOU CAN EAT MINE.
SO WHO'S THIS NISHI-MOTO?
THEN MAKE US SOME TEA!♡
I JUST FEEL BAD EATING YOUR FOOD.
OH, THANKS SO MUCH.
A FOX, HUH ...
Ha Ha
HE WAS SLY LIKE A FOX.
WELL, LOTS OF GUYS CAME BY TO TAKE A PEEK.
HOW CAN I KEEP 'EM STRAIGHT?
HMMM ...
HE CAME BY THE STUDIO ONCE.
HE'S THE HEAD OF GAIA'S PRODUC-TION DEPART-MENT.
WHO?
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

NANA, IT'S SUPER FANCY SUSHI!
UNI! IKURA! TORO!
IT'S LIKE GOOD COP, BAD COP!
Could Gaia get any shadier?!
....
ONE POINT FOR THE FOX.
I GUESS NISHI-MOTO'S ALL RIGHT THEN...
THEY FIGURE THE MEDIA ONSLAUGHT WILL SELL THE BAND.
YEP.
THAT FOX AIN'T SO HARD TO FIGURE OUT.
DOES IT MEAN THEY'RE GOING TO PUT OUT YOUR RECORD?!
SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A BIGWIG LIKE THAT BUYS US FANCY SUSHI?
CONGRAT-ULATIONS YOU GUYS!

I PROMISED MYSELF I'D DO ANYTHING TO CLIMB UP THE MUSIC BIZ LADDER AND GET SO HIGH, NO ONE CAN LOOK DOWN ON ME.
I ALREADY THREW OUT MY STUPID PRIDE.
NOW THAT I'VE BEEN PUT IN THIS POSITION, I'LL USE REN AS MUCH AS I CAN.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIGN THE CONTRACT.
BUT NO ONE'S GOING TO MAKE YOU DO THIS, NANA.
I'M SORRY, I FORGOT..
OH YEAH..
OF COURSE WE HAVE TO DO THIS!
WHAT'RE YOU SAY-ING?!
I CAN'T USE CHOP-STICKS...
....
Ha Ha Ha
YOU JUST REAL-IZED?
EEK
Nana, you're so cool!
HE MUST'VE GROWN UP WHERE THE SUN SHINES, WITHOUT HAVING TO WALK IN THE DARK.
THAT'S WHY HE'S GOT THAT NATURAL WARM VIBE.
THE RICH YOUNG MAN IS SUCH A SOFTIE, IT'S A PROBLEM.
HE'S MOPING IN HIS ROOM.
SO WHERE'S NOBU?
WELL, NOBU'S JUST NAIVE.

IT'S NOT JUST ME TRYING TO BASK IN THAT SUN.

THAT'S WHY NOBU'S ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE.



I saw U on TV! Awesome! You're an overnight sensation! Gimme your autograph! ♡

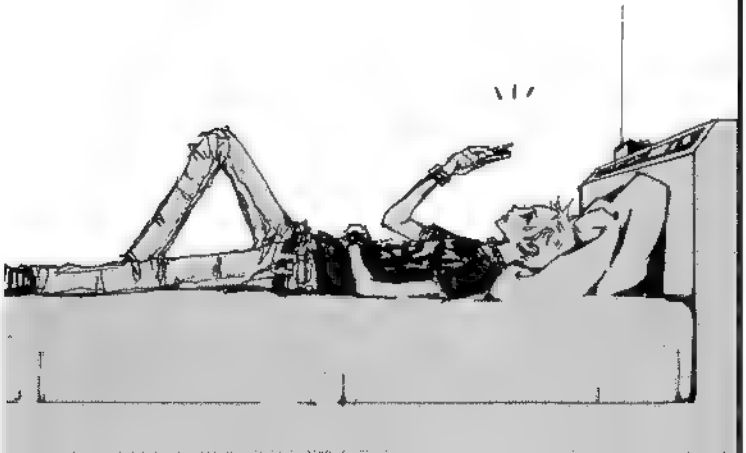
beep

Nana's beautiful. Introduce us. She can take advantage of me any time!

beep

So who's Hachi? Nana's pet dog?

Ding dong



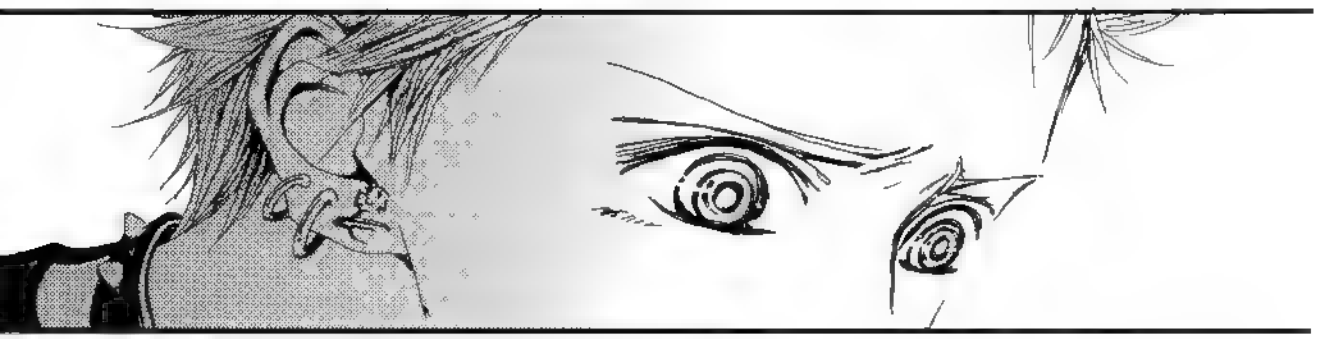
YANK
C'MON ...
FOOD IS JUST FOOD. EAT IT.
I WON'T GIVE IN...
YOU CAN'T BREAK ME WITH FOOD ANYMORE...
I'M BUMMED OUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT IS HAP-PENING LIKE THIS.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE NANA WANTS TO DO IT.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER PRIDE?
NANA PROBABLY WANTS TO GET BIG AND SHOVE IT IN THE PUBLIC'S FACE...
...SINCE SHE'S HAD A HARD LIFE.
NANA GAINS PRIDE IN FACING ADVER-SITY.
BUT I GOT MY PRIDE, TOO.
GAIA DOESN'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT OUR MUSIC.
IS THIS WHAT MAJOR LABELS DO?
BIG COMPANIES ARE ALL LIKE THAT.
IF IT SELLS, ANY-THING GOES.
BUT Yasu!

GAIA'S PROBABLY INVOLVED IN THE MEDIA FEEDING FRENZY, TOO.
I KNEW IT!
THAT'S WHAT MR. KAWANO AND MR. MATSUO THINK.
THE NETWORK THAT BROADCASTS "SEVEN IN THE MORNING" ALSO HAS TWO MUSIC PROGRAMS.
GAIA OFTEN HAS MUSIC AND ARTISTS APPEARING ON THOSE SHOWS...
SO WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF DEALS ARE GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES?
TO "BREAK" OUR BAND AS THE LATEST THING ON GAIA LIKE THAT...
THE TV STATION MUST'VE CONTACTED GAIA AHEAD OF TIME.
OTHER-WISE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED GAIA'S NAME.
THE SHOW WAS SET UP TO BE OUR PROMO-TIONAL PUSH.
I'M SURE THAT WAS GAIA'S CONDITION FOR ALLOWING IT TO BE BROAD-CAST.

WELL, THAT SUCKS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE ON A RECORD LABEL LIKE THAT.
IT MUST BUM NANA OUT TO BE IN SUCH A DEFENSIVE POSITION.
SINCE THE TV SHOW WAS GOING TO AIR SOMETHING ON US, GAIA WANTED THE PROMOTION TO BE FLASHY.
AND WITH FREE TV PROMOTION, IF THE RECORD FLOPS AND WE TANK, GAIA HAS NOTHING TO LOSE.
BUT IF GAIA GETS INTERESTED ENOUGH, THEY'LL GIVE US A HUGE BUDGET.
WELL, NO MATTER WHAT LABEL WE'RE ON, THERE'LL ALWAYS BE SHADY DEALINGS LIKE THAT.
IF WE'RE GOING TO BE ON A MAJOR LABEL, IT'S BEST TO DEAL WITH ONE THAT GIVES US LOTS OF MONEY FOR PRODUCTION AND PROMOTION.
YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THE MUSIC ALL YOU WANT, BUT UNLESS PEOPLE GET TO HEAR IT, WHO CARES?

I THINK THERE'RE A LOT OF THINGS THAT ARE HARD TO ACCEPT...
clink
WELL LATELY, EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE'S BEEN HARD TO ACCEPT.
THEN I GUESS YOU'RE FIGURING IT OUT...
THERE'S NO JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ALWAYS BE DISAP-POINTED, TOUGHEN UP...
AND GET CRAFTY.

IF YOU CAN'T TAKE IT, GO BACK TO THE TERASHIMA INN.



WHEN I TURNED ON THE TV, I SAW REN SWARMED BY PAPARAZZI ON ALL THE GOSSIP SHOWS.

SEEING REN BEING RUSHED SILENTLY THROUGH THE LOBBY AT NARITA...
...MADE ME FEEL KIND OF LEFT BEHIND AND ABAN-DONED AGAIN.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE REN'S GOING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING.

ALL OUR TALK ABOUT LIVING IN THAT WARE-HOUSE DISTRICT SOME-DAY..
...NOW SEEMS LIKE JUST A DISTANT DREAM...
...THAT'S EVEN LESS LIKELY TO COME TRUE THAN MY DREAM OF MAKING IT AS A SINGER.
HEY, JUN...
WHERE DO YOU THINK REN RAN OFF TO?
LEAVING NANA HERE...
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO STAY HERE?

I WONDER WHEN HE'S COMING BACK.
WE HAVEN'T MADE UP YET. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THEY SENT REN OVERSEAS. DOES THAT MEAN TAKUMI WENT, TOO?
LEAVING ME BEHIND...
Hachiko
I HAVE CLASS, TOO.
MEN ARE SO SELF-CENTERED.
KYOSUKE CALLED YOU OVER HERE, BUT THEN HE RAN OFF TO CLASS.
NANA.
YOU HAVEN'T KEPT YOUR PROMISE TO ME!
IT'S THE BEST THING FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.
GO BACK TO YOUR FAMILY'S HOUSE.
THAT MESSAGE WAS ENCOUR-AGING?
NOT WHEN NANA LEFT ME SUCH A SWEET, ENCOURAGING MESSAGE!
I DON'T WANT TO!
SO JUST GIVE UP AND START ALL OVER AGAIN.
NO, THE HARDER YOU TRY, THE MORE DAMAGE YOU INFLICT ON EVERYONE AROUND YOU...
JUST DO IT!
NANA'S HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME, BUT SHE'S MAKING THE MOST OF IT. I WON'T GIVE UP EITHER— I SHALL OVERCOME!

SHE ISN'T LISTENING TO ME AT ALL.
.....
beep
CAN I STILL GET THROUGH?
DOES HIS CELL PHONE WORK IN ANOTHER COUNTRY?
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO LONDON! ♡
I WONDER HOW STELLA'S DOING? ♡
Ring!
....
A LADY IN LONDON?
NO FAIR! ♡
WOW!
HE'S GOT A LADY IN EVERY PORT!
SHE'S A BLONDE. ♡
TAKUMI'S LONDON LADY.
WHO'S STELLA?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT THROUGH!
HELLO, TAKUMI?
HELLO?

IS SOME-THING WRONG ?
UM ...
I JUST ...
WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY ...
I SAID MEAN THINGS TO YOU THIS MORN-ING.
BUT, I MEANT THEM.
.....
THIS MORN-ING?
OH...
SHUT UP!
RUFF RUFF YAP YAP
THAT'S ALL...
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU'RE BUSY WITH BAND STUFF.
click
....
P

Rings
.....
SOB
HELLO?
WHAT
HEY ...
WE'RE FLYING TO THE U.K. TOMOR-ROW.
I'LL E-MAIL YOU THE HOTEL'S PHONE NUMBER, SO CALL ME THERE IF YOU NEED TO.
THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE FRONT DESK WHO CAN SPEAK JAPANESE.
huh?
TOMOR-ROW?
FOR HOW LONG?
WELL...
ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

Stella
THAT'S NOT VERY LONG.
TWO WEEKS ?!
YOU SUCK!
IT'S NOT THE SAME AT ALL!
BUT IT DOES MATTER!
EVEN IF I STAYED HERE, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER WITH THIS MEDIA CIRCUS, SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
REALLY?
I DON'T SEE THE DIFFER-ENCE...
WELL ANYWAY, THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING...
Stella
PUNCH
SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO MEET YOUR PARENTS. PLEASE TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED AND THAT I'M SORRY.
...LONE-LY
THEN MAYBE I'LL GO BACK TO MY FOLKS' PLACE WHILE YOU'RE IN ENGLAND SINCE I'LL BE...
SURE.
WHY DON'T YOU DO THAT?
SO WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
ARE YOU GOING TO RAISE THE BABY AT YOUR PARENTS' PLACE TOO?

I MADE UP MY MIND THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'M GOING TO MAKE A HAPPY FAMILY WITH YOU AND THAT BABY!
NO WAY! I DON'T WANT THAT!
YOU DON'T HAVE BABIES FOR NO REASON ...
SLOW DOWN.
BUT PLEASE COMPROMISE A LITTLE SO THE KID TURNS OUT OKAY.
THE THREE OF US IS ENOUGH ?
WE CAN HAVE MORE KIDS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SO, I'LL BRING YOU BACK SOMETHING FROM ENGLAND.
OKAY ...

WHAT SIZE?
SIZE SEVEN! ♡
Size 4 in the U.S.
I DIDN'T GET YOUR ENGAGEMENT RING YET.
OH.
A DIAMOND RING!
GOT IT. ♡
SQUEAK

HEY, JUN!
HE'S BRINGING ME BACK AN ENGAGEMENT RING AS A SOUVENIR!
That's good, right?!
CONGRATULATIONS ...
BUT, IS THAT REALLY A SOUVENIR?

BUT THE IDEALS THAT WE PURSUE AND THE REALITY THAT RUSHES TOWARD US KEEP STARING EACH OTHER DOWN.
THEY DON'T GET ALONG.
APPARENTLY, PEOPLE ARE LOCKED INTO A SYSTEM WHERE YOU HAVE TO PAY SOMETHING IN ORDER TO GAIN SOMETHING.
THE CYCLE OF WAXING AND WANING IS PURE FATE.
I STARTED TO REALIZE THIS...
TIME FOR A DRINK.
knock knock

FINALLY, OUR DREAMS ARE COMING TRUE.

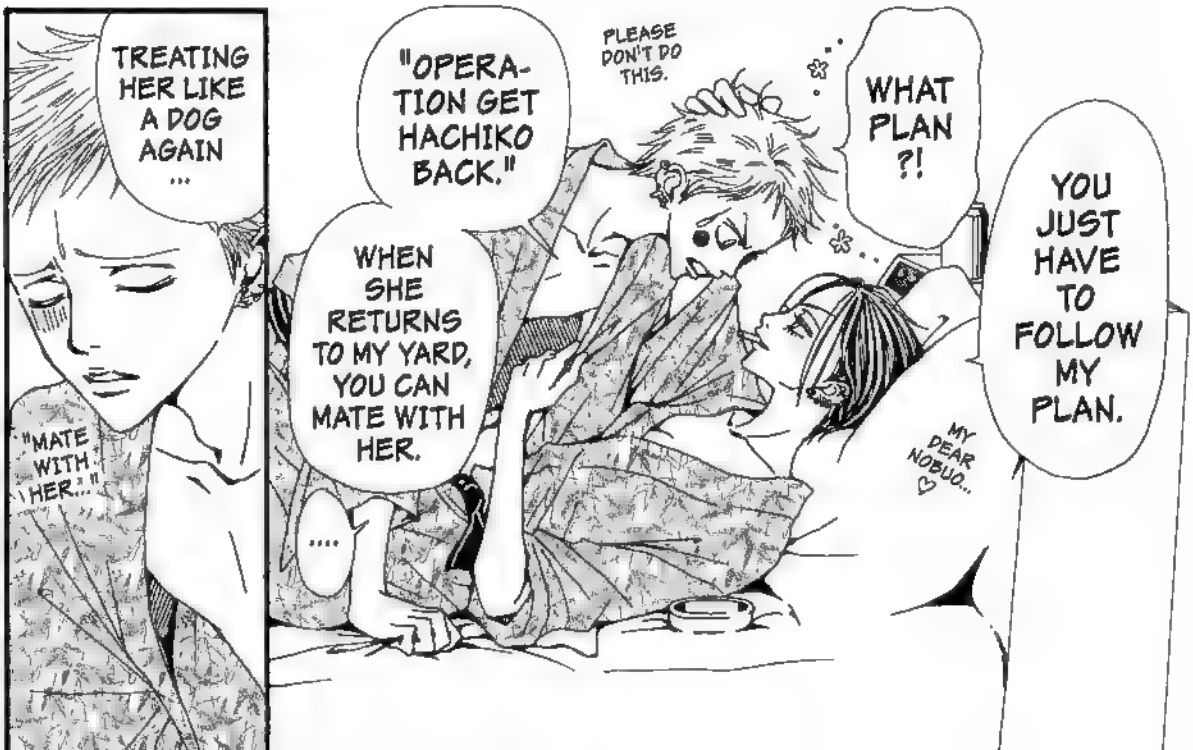
SO NANA...
YOU SAID SOMETHING FOR HACHI ON TV, DIDN'T YOU?
I JUST SENT HER A SECRET MESSAGE.
....
I'VE BEEN GETTING TONS OF E-MAILS ASKING "WHAT'S HACHIKO?" IT'S WORSE THAN PORNO SPAM.
OH ...
SORRY, MAN.
THERE, THERE..
I TOLD PEOPLE IT'S YOUR PET DOG.
SHE KINDA IS...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M REALLY SORRY. I KEEP DRAGGING YOU THROUGH DRAMA.
IF I WEREN'T IN YOUR LIFE, YOU COULD LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER IN PEACE.
I'M JUST LIVING OUT A STORY WHERE I'M TORMENTED BY GIRLS NAMED "NANA."
IT'S COOL, MAN. THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO BE DOING.
HA
WHAT STORY?
"THE NOBUO DIARIES."
....

...BUT I JUST CAN'T ERASE HACHI FROM MY STORY.
I FEEL BAD FOR YOU ...
HEH HEH
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.
THEN THE NEXT GIRL CHARACTER IN THE STORY WILL BE NAMED "NANA," TOO.
NO, ANY-THING BUT THAT!
affiné BEER
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO DISAPPEAR FROM MY STORY, EITHER.
BUT I'M PROBABLY GONE FROM HACHI'S STORY BY NOW.

I WONDER WHEN IT'LL BE A FULL MOON?
BUT IT'S NOT TOTALLY FULL YET.
SO ARE YOU SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE?
JUN, I THINK...
IF YOU'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT, I'LL E-MAIL KYOSUKE TO STAY OVER AT A FRIEND'S PLACE.
MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
...WAS THE HAPPIEST TIME IN MY LIFE.
...THAT THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON...
HEY, JUN...
LOOK ...
THE MOON'S SO BEAU-TIFUL TONIGHT.

WHAT NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON?
I THOUGHT THAT I HAD EVERYTHING I WANTED.
MY HEART WAS FULL OF HOPES AND DREAMS...
...AND MY FUTURE WAS SHINING.
I'LL NEVER BE FULFILLED BY HAPPINESS LIKE THAT AGAIN, THE KIND WITH NO SHADOWS.
WITH HACHI...
...I THOUGHT I COULD DO ANY-THING.
BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME, I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING AT ALL.
I'M SUCH A LOST CAUSE.

SHE WAS REALLY HORRIBLE TO ME...
SO WHY CAN'T I LET GO?
MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET GO. THERE'S STILL HOPE.
SLAM
HOW?!


TREATING HER LIKE A DOG AGAIN ...
"MATE WITH HER..."
"OPERATION GET HACHIKO BACK."
WHEN SHE RETURNS TO MY YARD, YOU CAN MATE WITH HER.
....
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.
WHAT PLAN ?!
YOU JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW MY PLAN.
MY DEAR NOBUO..

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TO FIGHT!
DON'T TALK BACK! FIGHT LIKE A MAN!
NANA ...
DON'T BE SO NEGA-TIVE. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE ONLY 20 YEARS OLD. YOU GOT YOUR WHOLE LIFE IN FRONT OF YOU.
JUST DON'T DO STUPID THINGS.
I'M NOT BEING NEGA-TIVE.
JUN, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND THE DELICATE HEART OF A GIRL.
YOU'RE ALSO 20 YEARS OLD. SO WHY'RE YOU SUCH A MIDDLE-AGED LADY?
MIDDLE-AGED LADY?!
BUT KYOSUKE IS LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED GUY. YOU'RE A GOOD COUPLE.
I'M JEALOUS.
I'LL TRY MY BEST TO MAKE A GOOD COUPLE WITH TAKUMI.
SEE YA!
SO WHY DID YOU COME OVER HERE?
IF YOU WANT TO ACT, DO A ONE-WOMAN SHOW.

MY PLAN IS SIM-PLE.
TO SHOW HACHI OUR SUPER SWEET DREAMS.
GAIA
AND AS FOR BLAST ...
...WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP OUR COOL...
...AND LOOK REALLY COOL, AT LEAST IN HACHI'S EYES.
Nana Osaki
大崎
THAT WAY, SHE'LL COME BACK FOR SURE.
THAT COLD-BLOODED MAN, WHO TAKES HER FOR GRANTED...
HE'LL NEVER MAKE OUR LI'L HACHI HAPPY.

LET'S JUST DO THE BEST WE CAN TO-GETHER.
...AND WE EXPECT BLAST TO DELIVER.
I PROMISE, GAIA WILL DO EVERY-THING IN ITS POWER TO PROMOTE YOU...
Contract

HEH
NANA.
HEE HEE HEE
?

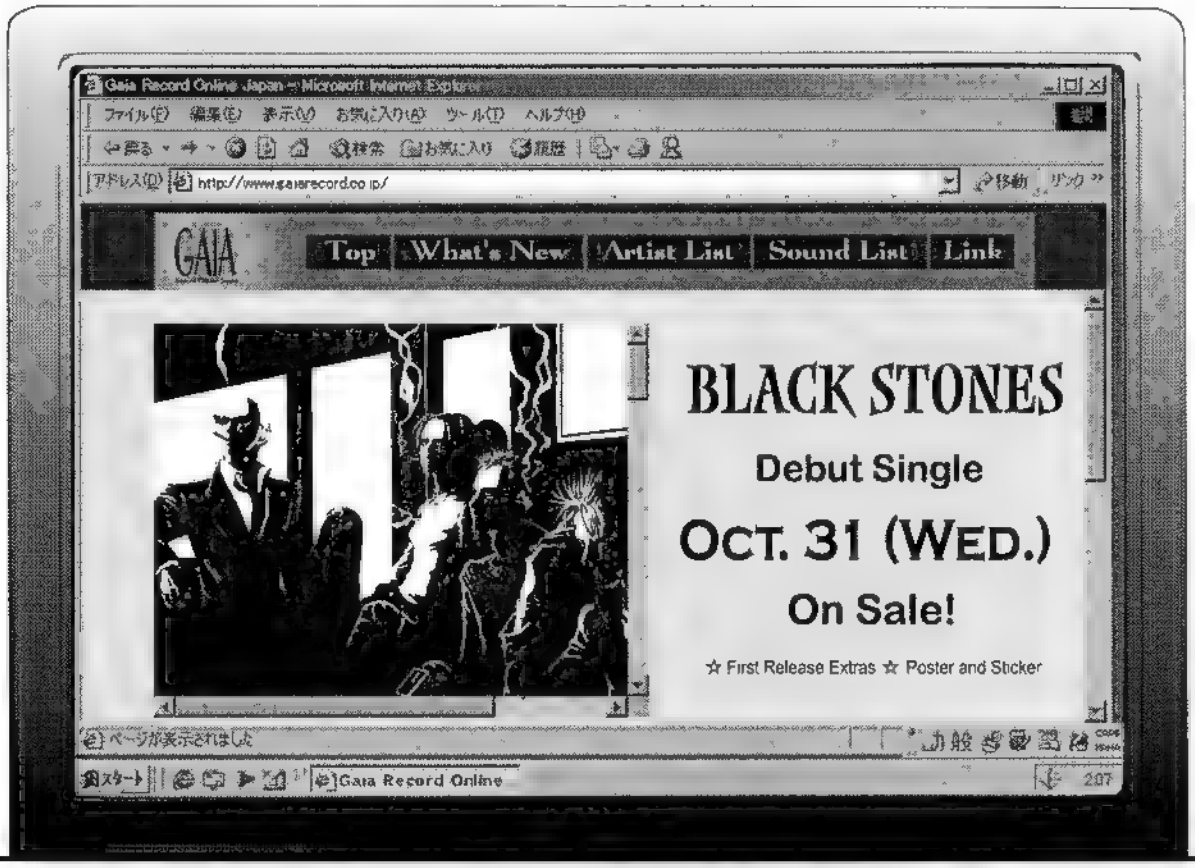
...SO YOU BETTER BACK US UP.
WE PLAN TO HIT NUMBER ONE WITH OUR FIRST SINGLE...
I'M THE HERO OF "THE HACHIKO SHOW."
Vrrrooooom
REN!♡

SEARCH
Weekly
WHAP
The sordid past of the beautiful woman who stole the rock-n-roll hero's heart.
BEAU-TIFUL ...
SEARCH
NO, NOT THAT, PERV!
LIKE A SHELF.
HUGE TITS? ♡
JUST LOOK.

I'M GETTING A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
GAIA'S GETTING CARRIED AWAY AND JOINED THE MEDIA CIRCUS.
WHY?
CHECK OUT THE ENHANCE-MENTS.
THEY SEEM TO REALLY DIG YOUR LADY.
I'M SURE THESE GUYS LAUNCHED THE WHOLE MEDIA FREAK-OUT.
THE HEAD-LINE'S RIDICU-LOUS, BUT THE CONTENT IS PRETTY CRAZY TOO.
WELL, I SURE FELL FOR HER.

PLUNK
SMILE
ARE YOU RETURN-ING THIS?

I FEEL GOOD TODAY.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE MR. ISONO DO MY HAIR!♡
I WONDER IF HE'S STILL THERE.
YAY! ♡
Ring
NANA ?!
LONG TIME NO SEE, MR. NAKAMURA.
WHEN I CAME IN TO RENT IT, YOU WEREN'T HERE, SO I THOUGHT YOU QUIT.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU. YOU SEEM GOOD.
MAYBE YOU CAN OVERLOOK MY LATE CHARGES?
NO PROBLEM!
PHEW!
WHY, NANA...
YOU CAME BACK 'CAUSE YOU MISSED ME?
HELLO, HACHIKO?
BIG NEWS, GAIA SET A RELEASE DATE FOR BLAST!
NO WAY! REALLY ?!
WHEN ?!

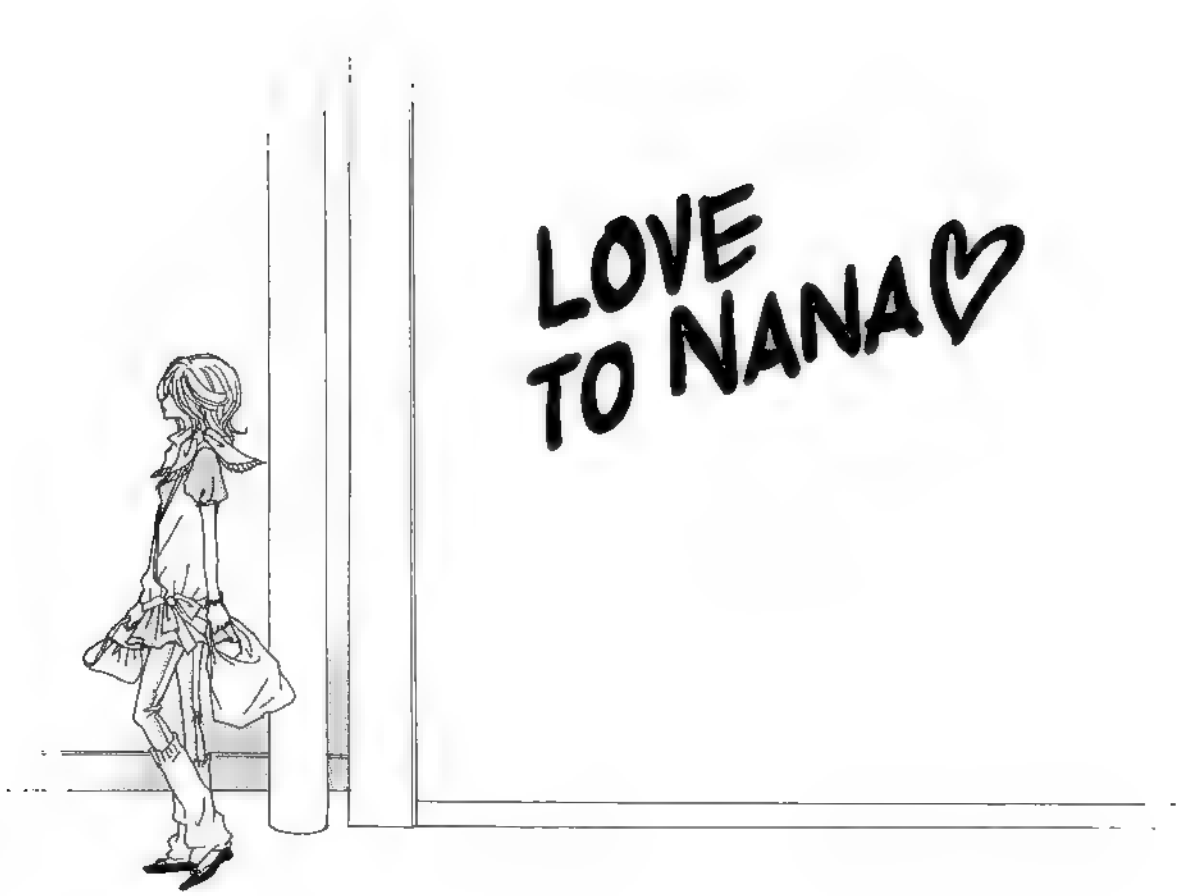

Gaia Record Online Japan - Microsoft Internet Explorer
http://www.gaiarecord.co.jp/
GAIA
Top
What's New
Artist List
Sound List
Link
BLACK STONES
Debut Single
OCT. 31 (WED.)
On Sale!
☆ First Release Extras ☆ Poster and Sticker
Gaia Record Online

ON OCTOBER 31ST.
WHEN WILL OUR SINGLE BE RE-LEASED?
HEY MARI...

HEY, HACHI...

DEATH to NANA
I CAN'T BE THE HERO IN YOUR STORY
...I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE.

...IN MY STORY IS STILL NANA...
BUT THE HEROINE'S NAME...
THE CUTE NANA—YOU.


LOVE
TO NANA

EVERY DAY WAS JAM-PACKED WITH BAND STUFF.

I HAD TIME TO SLEEP.

I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME OR ENERGY TO [illegible]

THE FINAL PLACE IS MY PLACE.

— ナナ —

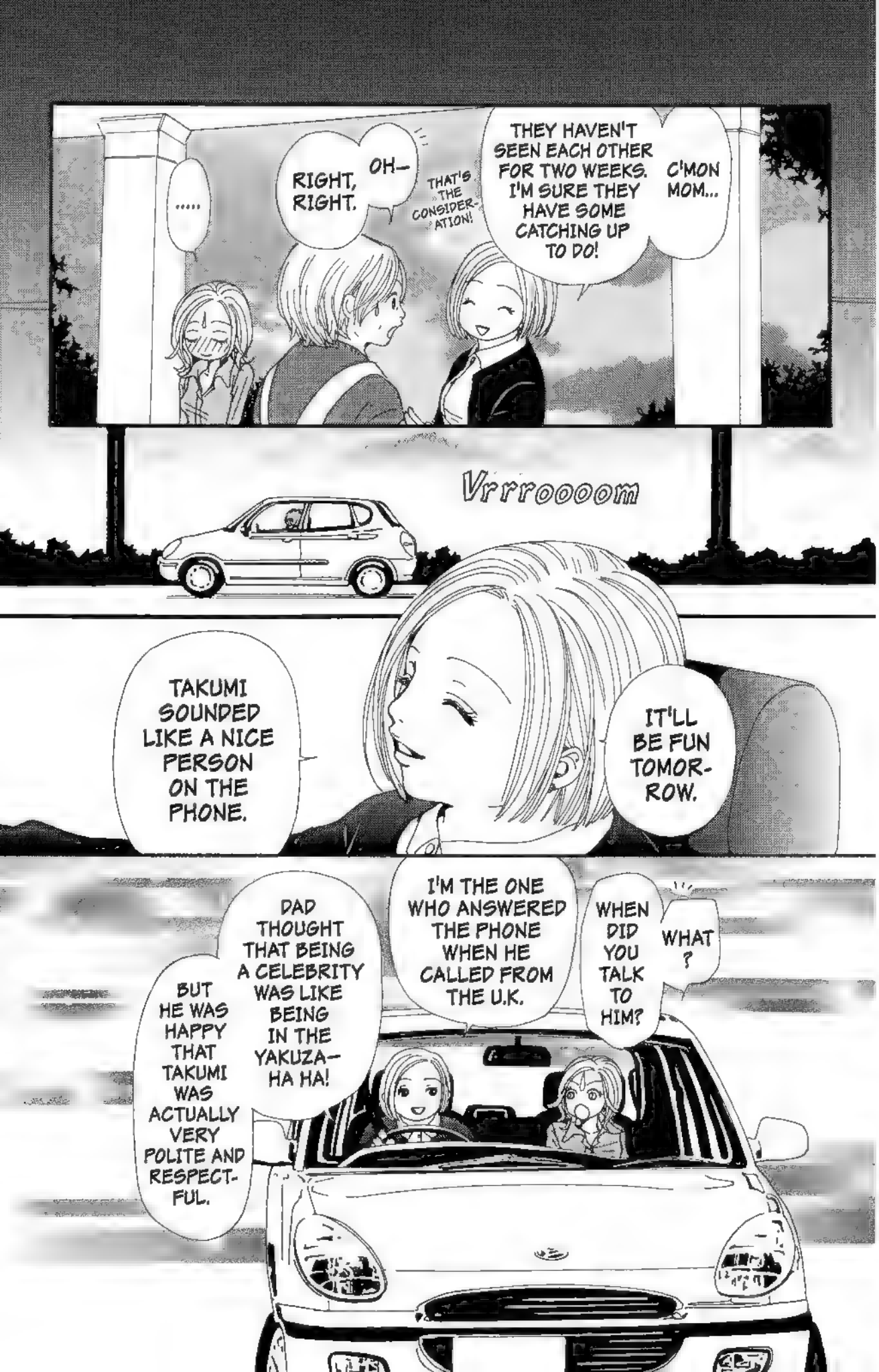
[Chapter 36]

WHIRRRR
IT'S TRAIN!!!!
LOOK!!
WHO?
WHAT?
REN?!

THEY'RE NOT TOGETHER?
So where's Ren?!
NO WAY! WHERE?!
I THINK
IT'S THE GUY WITH THE LONG HAIR.
NO—
I WANT MISO SOUP.
I'M SICK OF BREAD FOR BREAK-FAST.
CLINK
WANNA GO TO-NIGHT?
HEY, I FOUND A GOOD JAPANESE RESTAU-RANT. ♡

REN...
CALM DOWN!
REN!
BUT I WANT THE SALTY MISO SOUP THAT NANA MAKES!
JUST TRY TO FORGET LADIES LIKE THAT.
REN, I THINK NANA'S BAD NEWS LIKE THEY SAY, AND SHE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO TALK...
LADIES LIKE THAT ?!
IT'S NOT FAIR TAKUMI GOT TO GO HOME FIRST.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO JAPAN NOW.
WHATEVER.
TAKE...
IF SHE REALLY LOVED YOU, SHE WOULDN'T USE SO MUCH SALT WHEN SHE COOKS.
TAKUMI'S GOING HOME BEFORE US?
WHAT ?!
AND TAKUMI HAS HIS REASONS.
YOU STILL HAVE PHOTO SHOOTS.
SORRY.

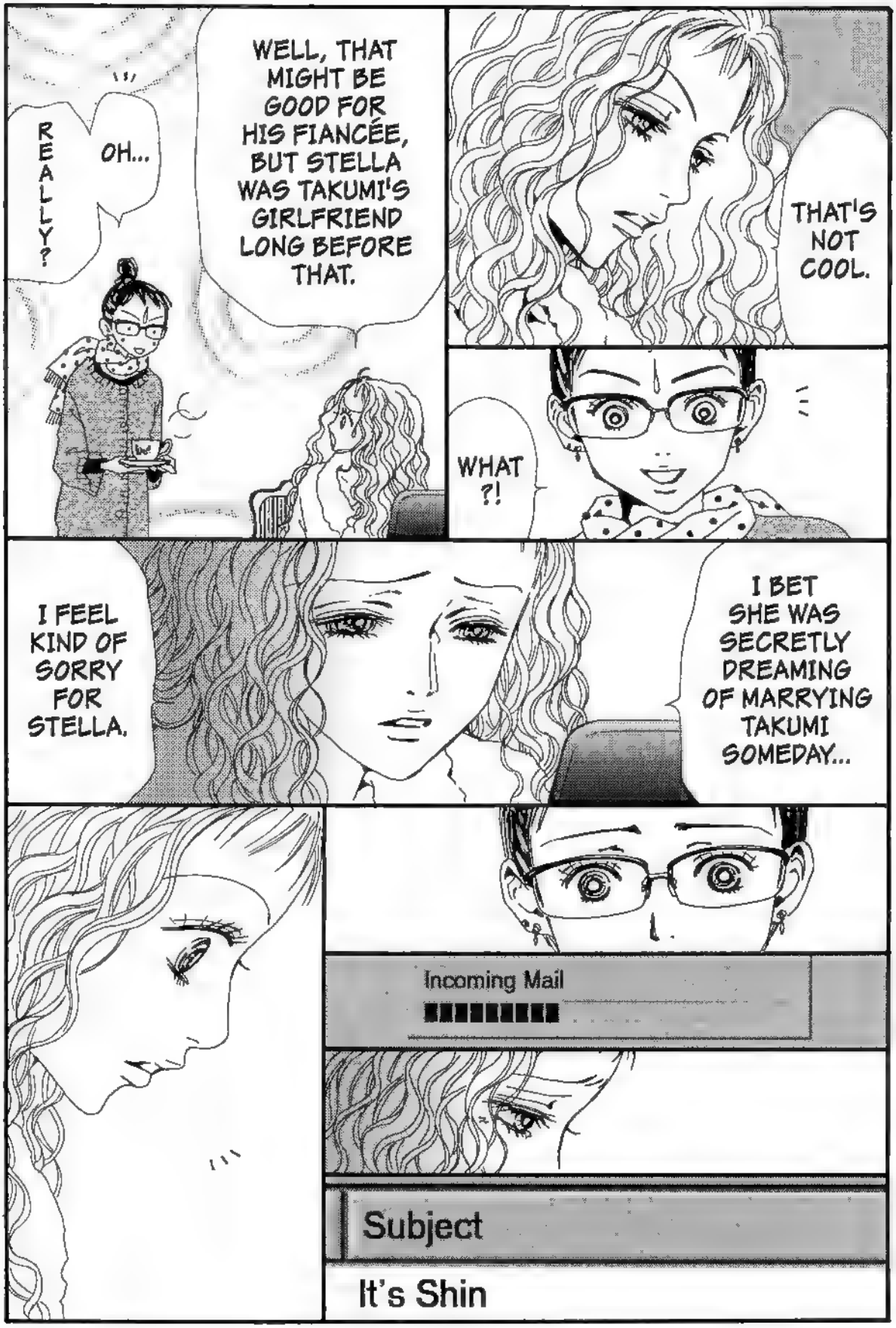
HE SUCKS, MAN.
WHY DIDN'T HE TELL US?!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
I THINK HE'S ALREADY BACK IN JAPAN.
BY HIM-SELF
HE ALREADY LEFT YESTER-DAY.
BUT HE'S COMING IN LATE AT NIGHT, SO HE'S JUST BEING CONSIDER-ATE.
AT THE HOTEL, HE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIS PRIVACY.
IF MR. ICHINOSE IS COMING OVER TO MEET US TOMORROW, HE CAN JUST STAY HERE.
HE'S PRACTIC-ALLY FAMILY NOW.
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
MOM?
I'M GOING TO GO CHECK IN AT THE HOTEL.

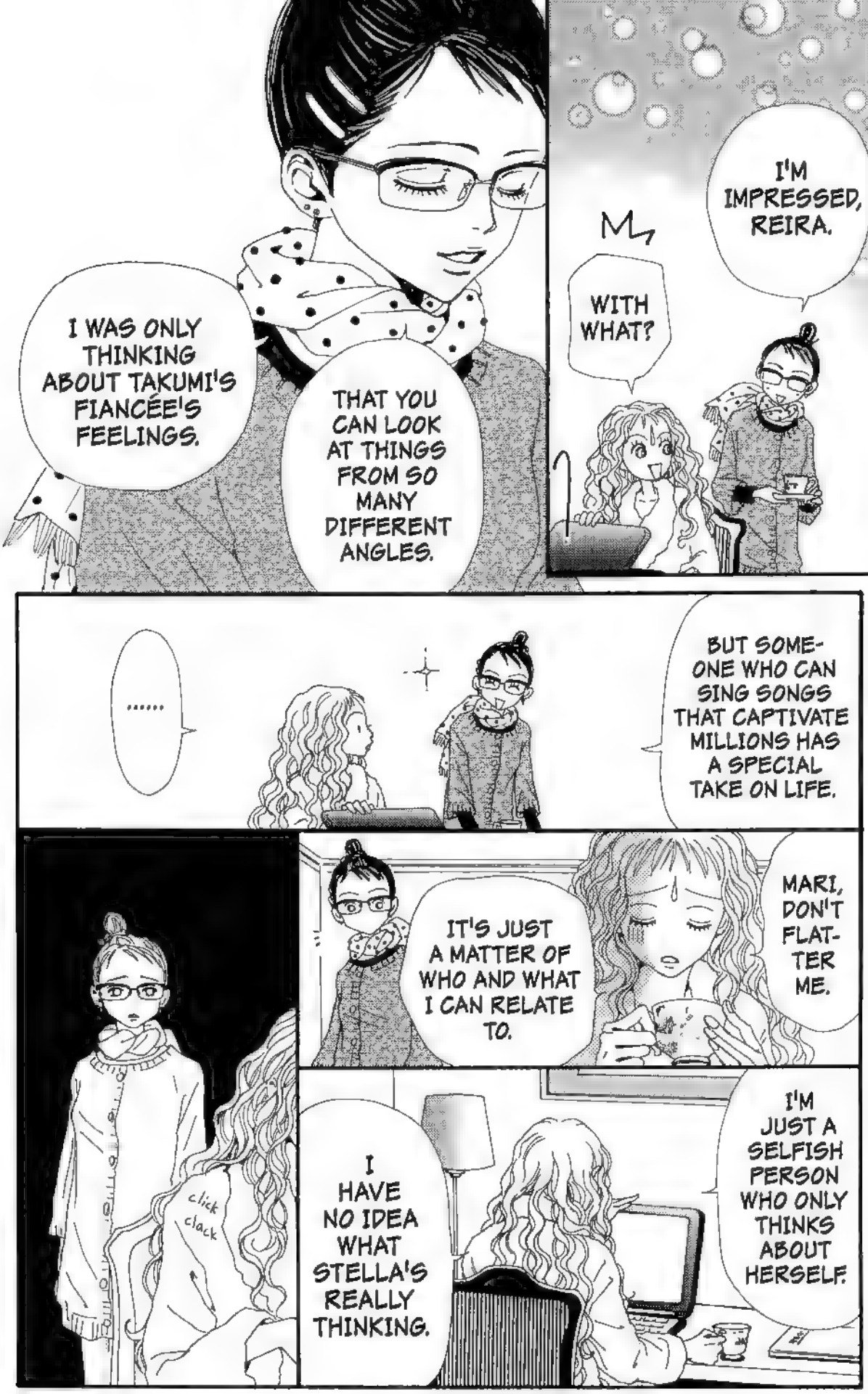

.....
OH—
RIGHT, RIGHT.
THAT'S THE CONSIDERATION!
THEY HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR TWO WEEKS. I'M SURE THEY HAVE SOME CATCHING UP TO DO!
C'MON MOM...
Vrrroooom
TAKUMI SOUNDED LIKE A NICE PERSON ON THE PHONE.
IT'LL BE FUN TOMOR-ROW.
BUT HE WAS HAPPY THAT TAKUMI WAS ACTUALLY VERY POLITE AND RESPECT-FUL.
DAD THOUGHT THAT BEING A CELEBRITY WAS LIKE BEING IN THE YAKUZA— HA HA!
I'M THE ONE WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE WHEN HE CALLED FROM THE U.K.
WHEN DID YOU TALK TO HIM?
WHAT ?

THEN MAYBE HE WAS GIVEN MUSICAL TALENT SO HE WOULDN'T WASTE HIS ENERGY ON EVIL.
REALLY ?
IF HE REALLY WENT YAKUZA, HE'D TAKE OVER THE WORLD.
HE'S SO CUTTHROAT.
Ah Ha Ha
OH REALLY ?
HE'S MORE OF A YAKUZA KIND OF GUY.
HE'S A GOOD ACTOR...
BY THE WAY, HOW'S NANA DOING?
HAVE YOU KEPT IN TOUCH WITH HER?
YEAH...
I'M SURE HE NEEDS YOU— A FAMILY— AS A REFUGE WHERE HE CAN RELAX.
SHOWBIZ SEEMS FLASHY AND EXCITING, BUT I BET IT'S ALSO REALLY HIGH-STRESS.
SO THAT'S AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR YOU.
GOOD LUCK.

BUT I HEARD THROUGH A MUTUAL FRIEND THAT SHE'S DOING WELL, THE BEST SHE CAN.
THE BEST SHE CAN?
SHE'S A TOUGH ONE.
THAT'S NANA FOR YOU.
AND I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER.
NOT REALLY.
I GUESS SHE BROKE HER CELL PHONE...
SO I CAN'T REALLY CALL OR E-MAIL HER.
THAT'S TOO BAD...
OH...
I WAS FRANTIC ...
WAS IT JEALOUSY?
REIRA...
I HON-ESTLY DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT TAKUMI OR HER BABY.
AND DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO ASK HACHI HOW SHE WAS DOING.
...TO SHOW HACHI MY SINGING, PER-FORMING SELF.

I'M ALL RIGHT.
YOU DIDN'T EAT ANY OF YOUR BREAK-FAST.
.....
click
VAIO
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
WHAT ?
DO YOU THINK TAKUMI HOOKED UP WITH STELLA? ♡
HEY, MARI...
HE CHANGED HIS SCHEDULE FOR HIS FIANCÉE.
BUT TAKUMI WAS SO BUSY HERE, I DON'T THINK HE HAD TIME FOR ANY PLAY.
I DON'T KNOW ...


WELL, THAT MIGHT BE GOOD FOR HIS FIANCÉE, BUT STELLA WAS TAKUMI'S GIRLFRIEND LONG BEFORE THAT.
OH...
REALLY?
THAT'S NOT COOL.
WHAT ?!
I FEEL KIND OF SORRY FOR STELLA.
I BET SHE WAS SECRETLY DREAMING OF MARRYING TAKUMI SOMEDAY...
Incoming Mail
Subject
It's Shin


I'M IMPRESSED, REIRA.
WITH WHAT?
THAT YOU CAN LOOK AT THINGS FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT ANGLES.
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT TAKUMI'S FIANCÉE'S FEELINGS.
BUT SOMEONE WHO CAN SING SONGS THAT CAPTIVATE MILLIONS HAS A SPECIAL TAKE ON LIFE.
.....
MARI, DON'T FLATTER ME.
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WHO AND WHAT I CAN RELATE TO.
I'M JUST A SELFISH PERSON WHO ONLY THINKS ABOUT HERSELF.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT STELLA'S REALLY THINKING.
click clack

Reira, how're you doing? Have you been able to relax a little in London?

We're way off in the mountains up north, so we can hunker down to write and record our new album.

Recording's been good, but we've been put on an exercise regimen that's kind of grueling. (But seeing Yasu in workout clothes makes it all worthwhile!) I don't really get why they're making us do all this.

But after being on a regular schedule for five days, I feel good and think I've even grown a little taller.

But maybe it's just my imagination!

THEN SHE COULD HAVE COOKED FOR US.
MISATO SHOULD HAVE COME WITH US.
WHY'S EVERYTHING YOU MAKE SO SALTY?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED FOR MISO SOUP...
...SO SHUT UP AND EAT!
WE CAN'T MAKE HER DO THAT.
SHE'S RESPONSIBLE, RELIABLE, AND CONSIDERATE.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! ♡
MISATO SHOULD JUST QUIT SCHOOL AND BE OUR MANAGER.
I WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE A CUTE GIRL AS OUR MANAGER.
YEAH ...

YASU!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!
Manager
Ginpei Moroboshi (28)
EVERY-THING!
BUT HOW COULD THAT BE?

GIN-PEI!
ARE YOU A GUY?! THEN TALK LIKE ONE!
AND WE DON'T NEED ANY-MORE BALDIES!
WHAT THE!
ARE YOU A GIRL?! THEN TALK LIKE ONE!
AND I'M NOT BALD, I JUST SHAVE MY HEAD!

HEY! I JUST SHAVE MY HEAD, TOO...
Ha Ha
MMM... ♡ SMELLS GOOD!
HEY, MATSUO ... ♡
HAVE YOU HAD DINNER YET? WANT TO JOIN US?

WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED EATING, COME TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE STUDIO.
TONIGHT WE'LL CANCEL PRACTICE AND HAVE A MEETING.
SO, MR. KAWANO SHOULD BE GETTING HERE SOON.
NO THANKS.
EAT IT!
WHEN NANA'S COOKING, I EAT WITH THE STAFF.
....
THAT'S WHY YOUR WIFE LEFT YOU!
Gaia owns this camp, and it's really nice, but we're surrounded by woods in the middle of nowhere. It's kind of a drag.
READ A NEWSPAPER!
WHAT'S GLOBAL WARMING?
SHOULDN'T IT BE WARMER 'CAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING?
AND IT'S ONLY SEPTEMBER!
IT'S FREEZING!
WHAT THE HELL?!
But the media can't find us here, so it's better than just hiding out in Tokyo.
The air's so fresh and clean here...
And you can see lots of stars at night.

When I see sparkling things...
...for some reason it makes me think of you.
I wonder why?
But I really don't know.
UNAN-NOUNCED SHOWS?
YEAH.
WE'LL SET UP SPECIAL STAGES WHERE THERE'S A LOT OF FOOT TRAFFIC.
SHINJUKU, YOYOGI, IKEBUKURO, UENO, AND SHIBUYA.
AT FIVE OUTDOOR SPOTS IN TOKYO, STARTING THE 10TH OF NEXT MONTH.

GOOD. I'M SURE YASU'S SICK OF DEALING WITH THE COPS.♡
WE JUST WON'T ANNOUNCE THE SHOWS TO THE PUBLIC.
NO, OF COURSE WE HAVE PERMITS.
BUT WON'T WE GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE COPS?
SHOWS!♡
YAY!
FFF

'CAUSE RANDOM PEOPLE IN PUBLIC ARE TOO SHY.
I THINK PLANTS ARE A GOOD THING.
YEAH RIGHT!
WE DON'T NEED PLANTS!
YOU'RE ANNOY-ING!
YOU SHUT UP!
BUT WE'LL HIRE ABOUT 20 THEATER ACTORS AS PLANTS.
SO THE AUDIENCE WILL JUST BE WHO-EVER'S PASSING BY.

GOD!
YOU LISTEN TO YASU WHEN HE TALKS!
OH...
THEY JUST BARK.
JUST THINK OF THEM AS BARKERS WHEN A NEW STORE OPENS UP.

You might not know cause you're overseas, Reira...

...but the gossip rags have gotten even more insane. They're even gossiping about Yasu now!

Just like they did with Nana, they're dredging up every bit of his past. They're making him out to be a total thug, based on his looks. (But you have to see him in his P.E. uniform!)

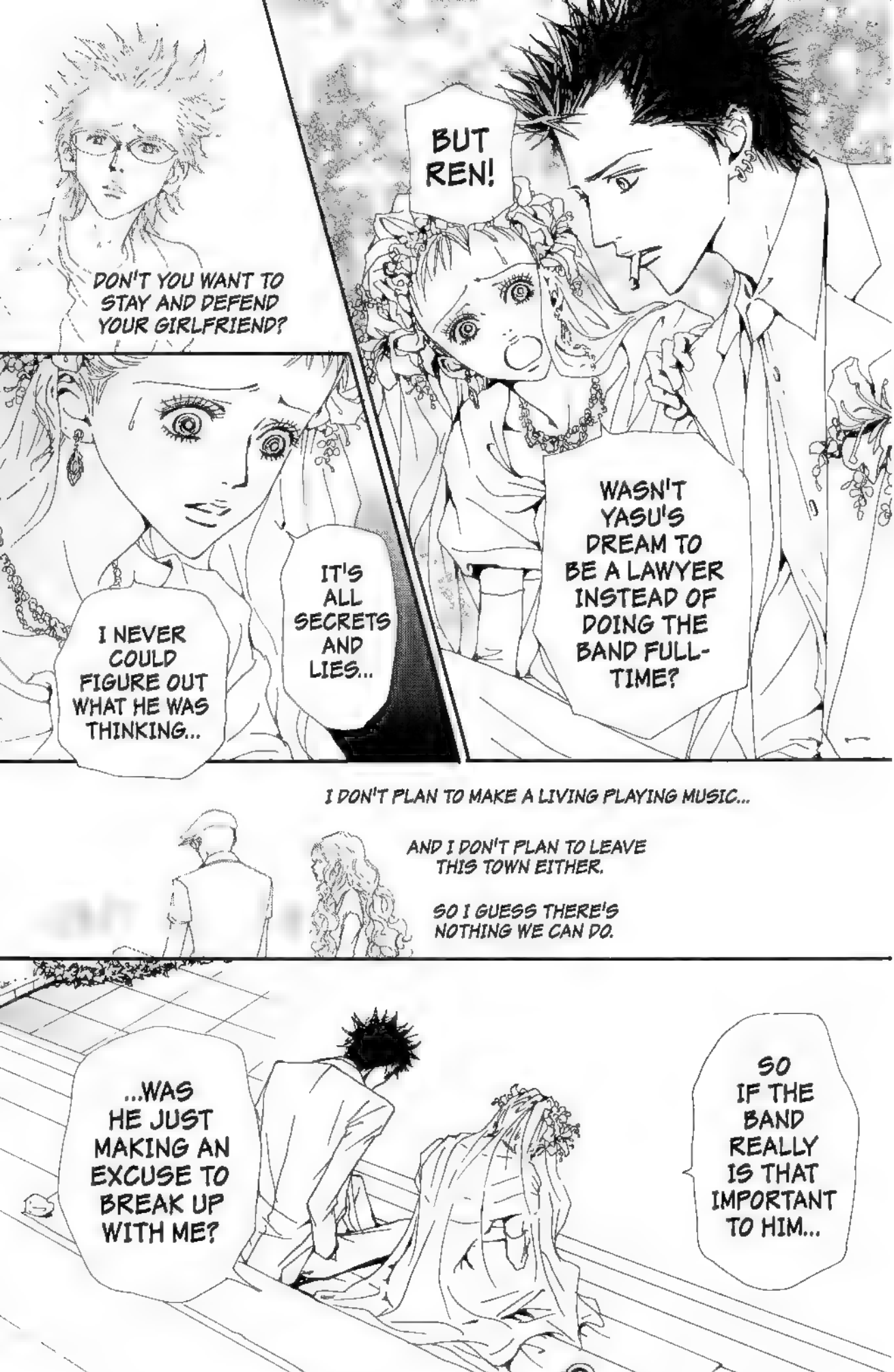
I don't know whether they know or not...
...but they haven't reported that you and Yasu used to go out.
So you don't have to worry about anything...yet.
HEY REN—
DID NAOKI TELL YOU ABOUT YASU?
EXPOSÉ ABOUT WHAT?
AND ABOUT HIM PUNCH-ING A SEARCH REPORTER WHO WAS HARASSING NANA, THEN GETTING QUESTIONED BY THE COPS.
STUFF ...
SEARCH JUST WROTE SOME JUICY EXPOSÉ ABOUT HIM.
NO, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BALDY?
HE SAW IT BEING TALKED ABOUT ON THE NET.

....
BUT OF COURSE IT'S NOT TRUE.
LIES, LIES, LIES.
THEY ALSO WROTE THAT YASU DIDN'T PASS THE BAR SO HE ISN'T REALLY A LAWYER.
ISN'T THAT MEAN ?
SO NOW ALL THE OTHER MAGA-ZINES ...
...ARE SAYING THAT NANA'S ACTUALLY GOING OUT WITH YASU, AND THINGS ARE HEAT-ING UP.
I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THAT RUMOR, TOO.
OH.
THANKS, MARI. ♡
UM... REIRA ?
THAT SUCKS.

LIKE WHAT IF MR. TAKAGI ISN'T REALLY ENROLLED IN THE JUDICIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE?
WHAT ?
WHAT'S THE JUDICIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTI-TUTE?
....
?
IT'S LIKE A LEGAL INTERN-SHIP.
YOU KNOW, LIKE AN APPREN-TICE.
AFTER YOU PASS THE BAR EXAM, YOU HAVE TO ATTEND THE JUDICIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR A YEAR AND A HALF IN ORDER TO BECOME A LAWYER.
?
REALLY ?
MARI, YOU KNOW EVERYTHING! ♡
HOW COOL.
JUST 'CAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING, REIRA.
SHEESH.
OH, AND YOU DO?!
WELL, I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARILY COMMON KNOWLEDGE, BUT...
...I MAJORED IN LAW.
Really ?!

I don't wear diapers!
LIKE CHANGING DIAPERS.
WHADDYA MEAN, BABY-SITTING?!
HEY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...
punch punch
YOU DON'T WEAR THOSE GLASSES FOR NOTHING!
THAT'S AMAZ-ING.
AND MY GLASSES ARE FAKE!
OH, IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL.
SO THEN WHY'RE YOU BABY-SITTING REIRA?
LET'S CHAT MORE LATER.
WHY AM I IN A BAND WITH GUYS WHO HIT ON EVERY GIRL THEY SEE?!
YOU PIGS!
.....
NO, I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, MARI.
IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR AND A HALF SINCE HE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE, SO MAYBE HE'S ALREADY A LAWYER.
SO THEN ISN'T HE IN THAT TRAINING RIGHT NOW?
SO THAT'S WHY YASU CALLS HIM-SELF AN APPREN-TICE.
IF HE'S DOING THE BAND THIS SERIOUSLY, I DON'T SEE HOW HE COULD DO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.
WELL ...
WHEN YOU GO INTO TRAINING, YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE TRAINING INSTITUTE YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO. YOU CAN'T JUST GO WHEREVER YOU WANT FOR THE ACTUAL INTERN-SHIP, EITHER.

...BUT ACTUALLY MADE HIM DO OFFICE WORK.
THE LAW FIRM WHERE MR. TAKAGI WORKS PROBABLY HIRED HIM AS A PARALEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 'CAUSE OF HIS SKILLS...
YEAH?
WHAT?
HEY, MARI!
BOY-FRIEND?!
I'M SURE MR. TAKAGI DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE UP HIS DREAM WITH THE BAND.
HE PROBABLY HIT THE REPORTER 'CAUSE HE CARES MORE ABOUT HIS BANDMATE THAN THE LAW.
DON'T LISTEN TO THEIR LIES... AND CHEER UP!
NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE SAY, I THINK YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S A GREAT PERSON, REIRA.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!


DON'T YOU WANT TO STAY AND DEFEND YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
BUT REN!
I NEVER COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT HE WAS THINKING...
IT'S ALL SECRETS AND LIES...
WASN'T YASU'S DREAM TO BE A LAWYER INSTEAD OF DOING THE BAND FULL-TIME?
I DON'T PLAN TO MAKE A LIVING PLAYING MUSIC...
AND I DON'T PLAN TO LEAVE THIS TOWN EITHER.
SO I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
...WAS HE JUST MAKING AN EXCUSE TO BREAK UP WITH ME?
SO IF THE BAND REALLY IS THAT IMPORTANT TO HIM...

REALLY ?
HE REALLY WANTED TO BE A LAWYER BACK THEN.
NO...
I JUST CAN'T STICK MY NECK OUT THERE LIKE THAT FOR NANA ANYMORE.
DAMN.
...I STILL LOVE HER JUST THE SAME.
BUT EVEN SO...

HEY, REN...
WHAT IF I DIED?
WOULD YOU DIE, TOO?
HOW DID I GET SO NUMB AND COLD?
Hey, Reira...

If you tell me you're lonely, Reira...

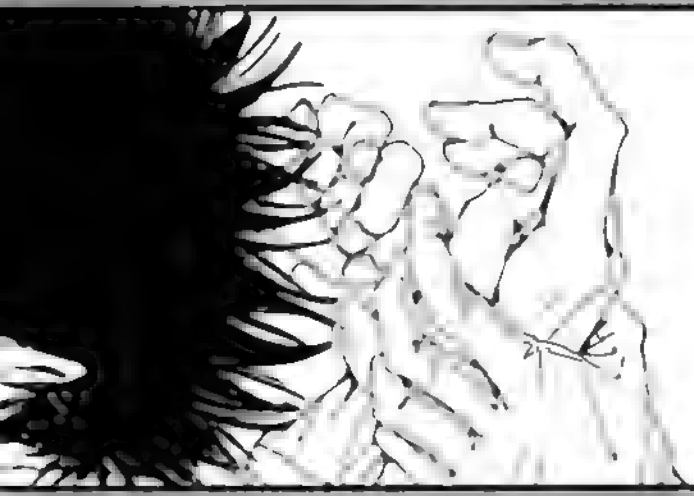
I'll fly to London right now.
Or anywhere else in the world.

If that'll warm your heart and body just a little, I'm there.

It's not that I'm trying to be nice or anything.

But it's just that I'm feeling like...

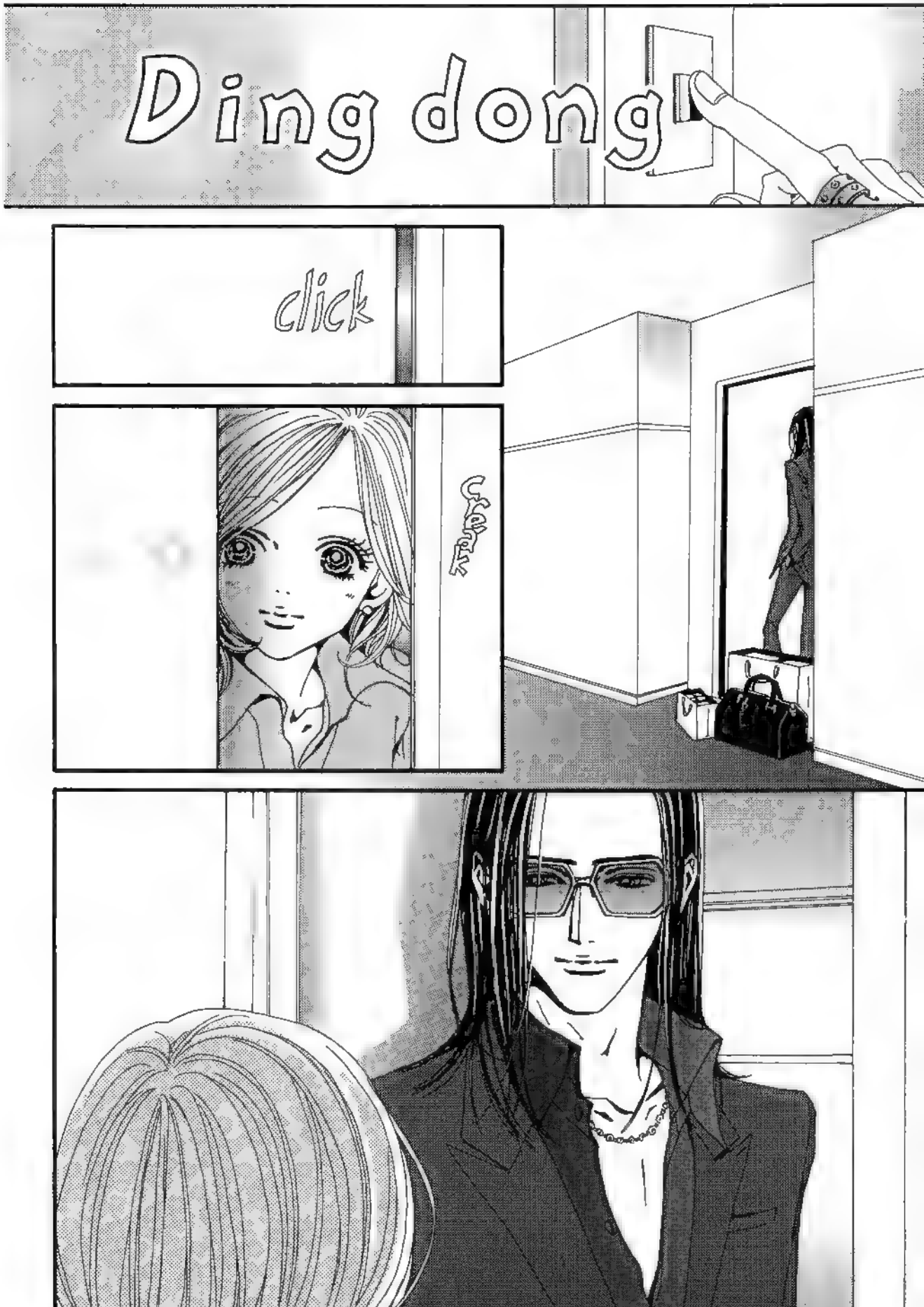
...there's nothing else important to me right now.



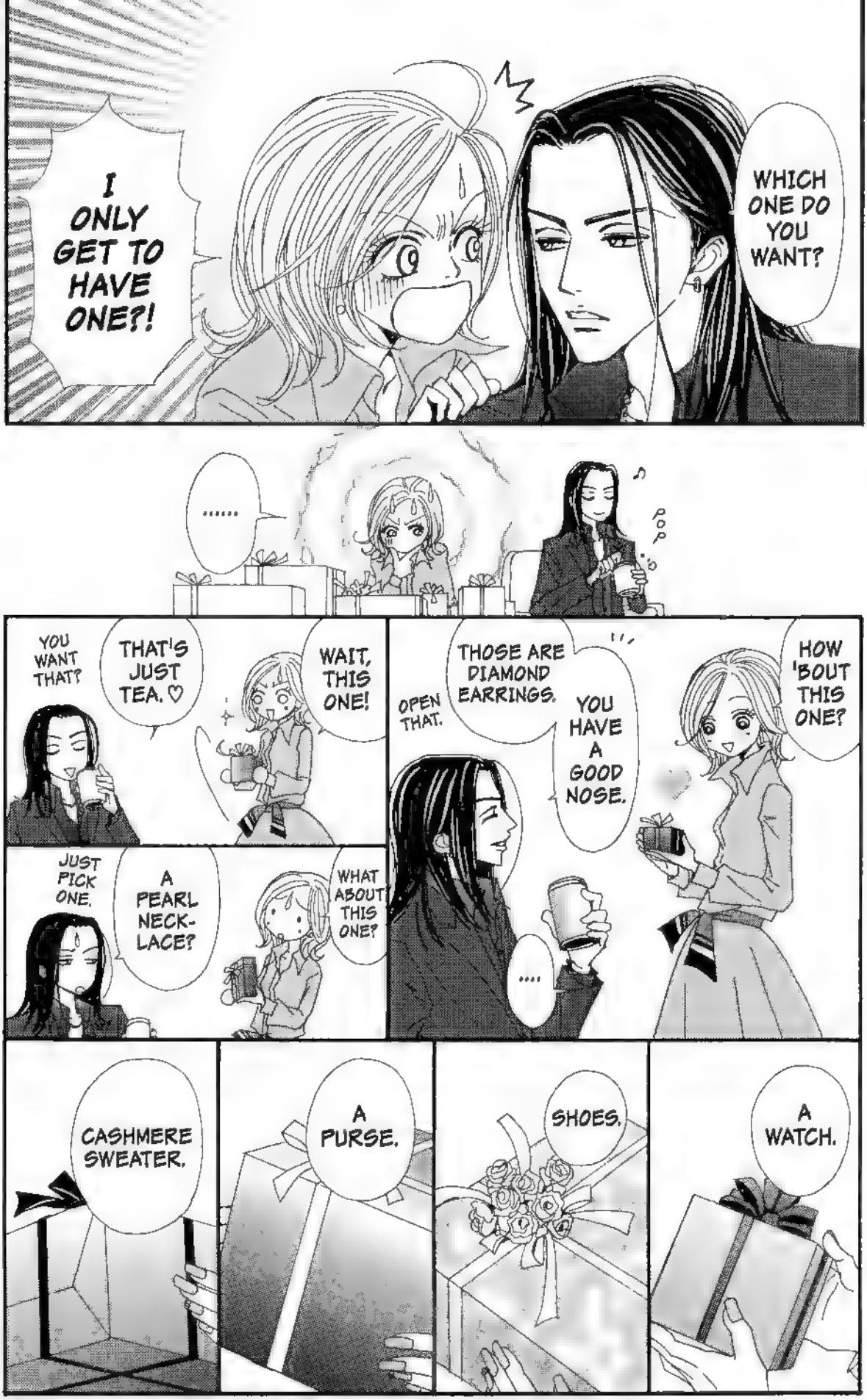
So I don't know what tomorrow will bring.

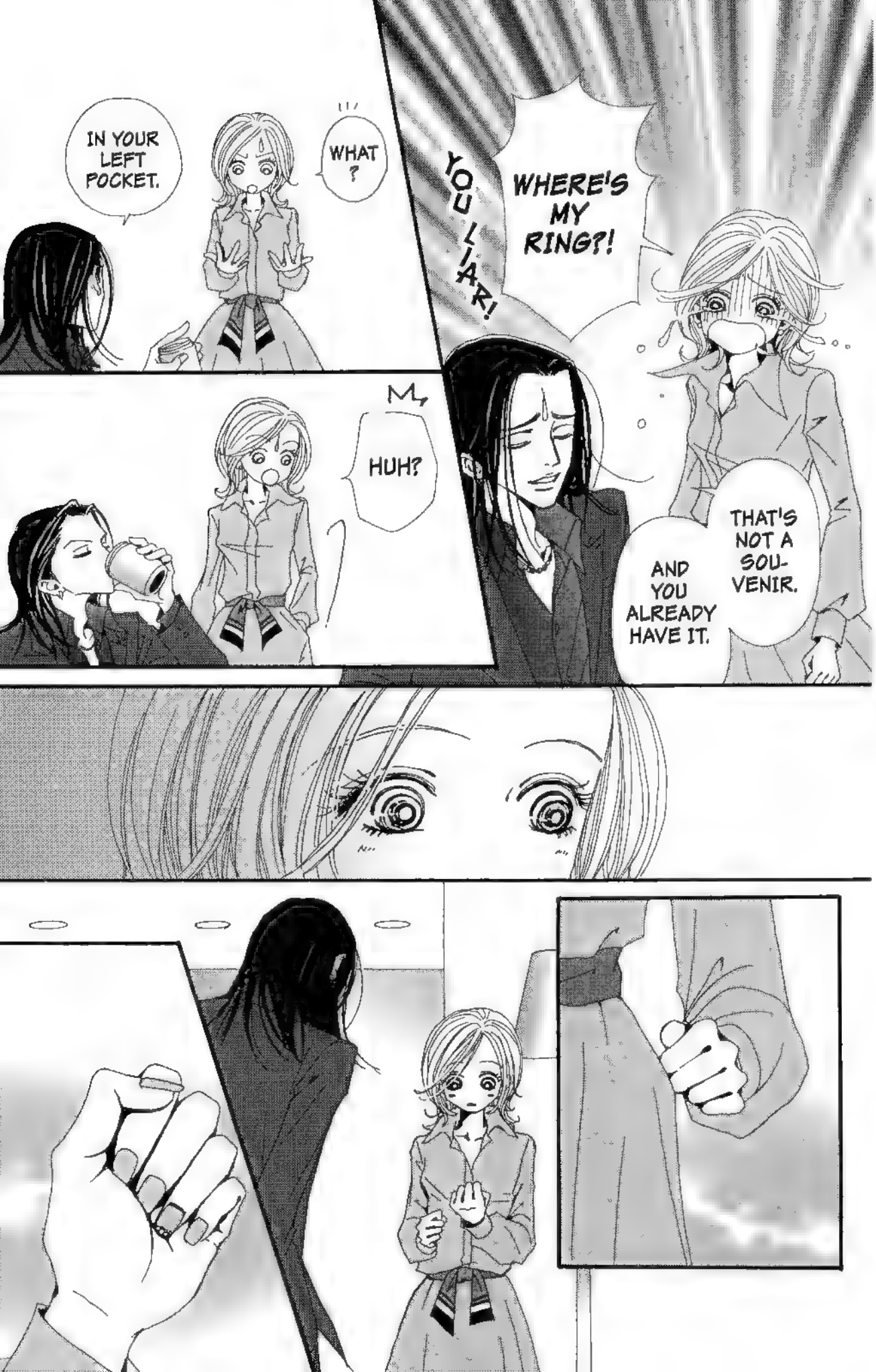
I'm sorry I've been so self-centered.

REN, YOU'RE NOT A COLD PERSON.
IT'S JUST THAT THE LONGER YOU LIVE ...
...THE HEAVIER YOUR BAGGAGE BECOMES.
AND IT GETS HARDER TO JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT.
THAT'S WHY YOU NEED SOMEONE ELSE...
...TO CARRY THAT LOAD WITH YOU.
REN, CAN'T YOU...
...BE THAT WAY WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?


Ding dong
click
creak

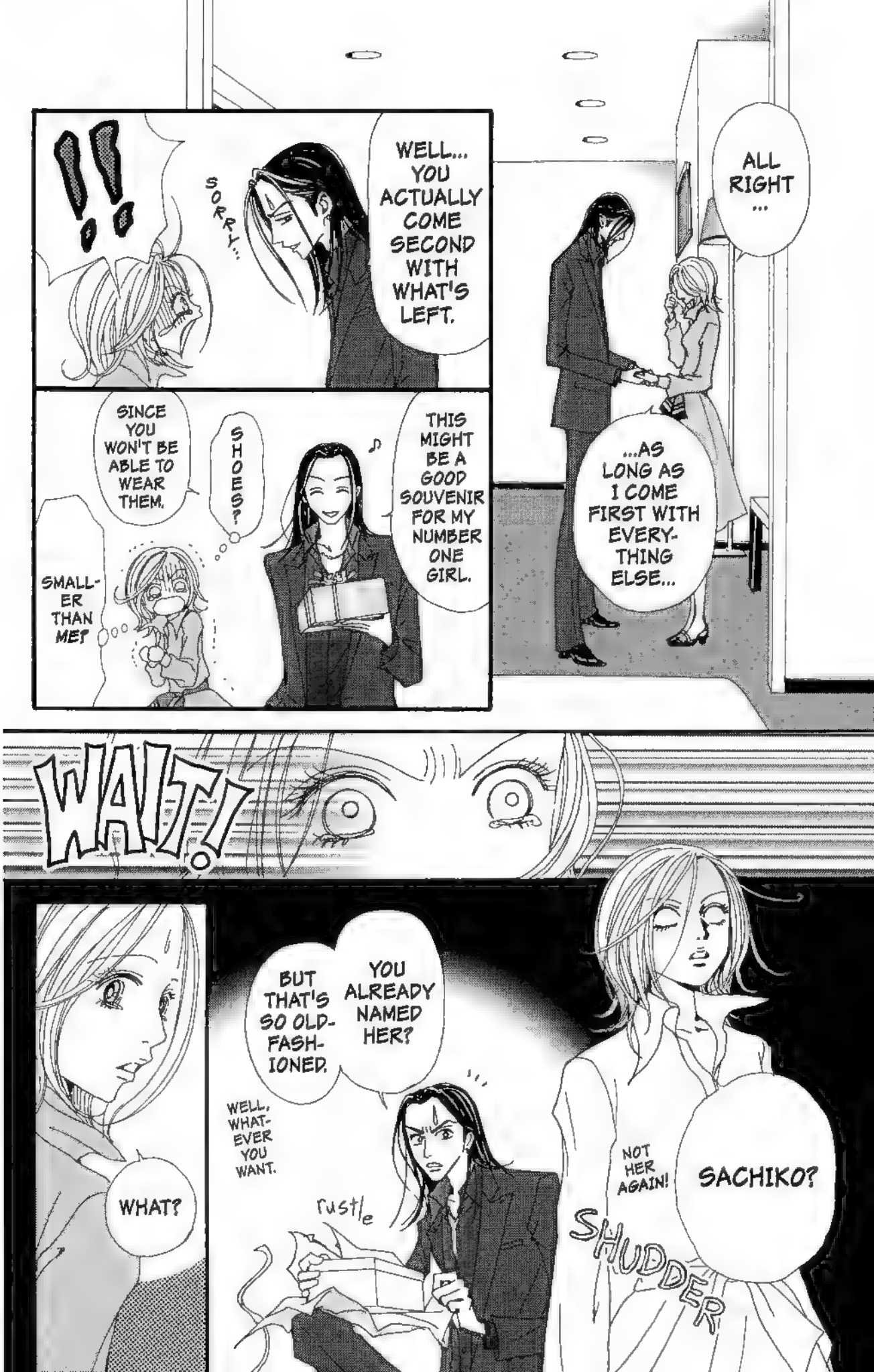
SLAM
WEL-COME HOME! ♡
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM YOUR TRIP.
I'M EX-HAUSTED.
SIGH
PLOP
I BROUGHT YOU BACK SOME PRESENTS! ♡
EEEK! ♡
And so many!


I ONLY GET TO HAVE ONE?!
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?
.....
YOU WANT THAT?
THAT'S JUST TEA. ♡
WAIT, THIS ONE!
JUST PICK ONE.
A PEARL NECK-LACE?
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
OPEN THAT.
THOSE ARE DIAMOND EARRINGS.
YOU HAVE A GOOD NOSE.
....
HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE?
CASHMERE SWEATER.
A PURSE.
SHOES.
A WATCH.

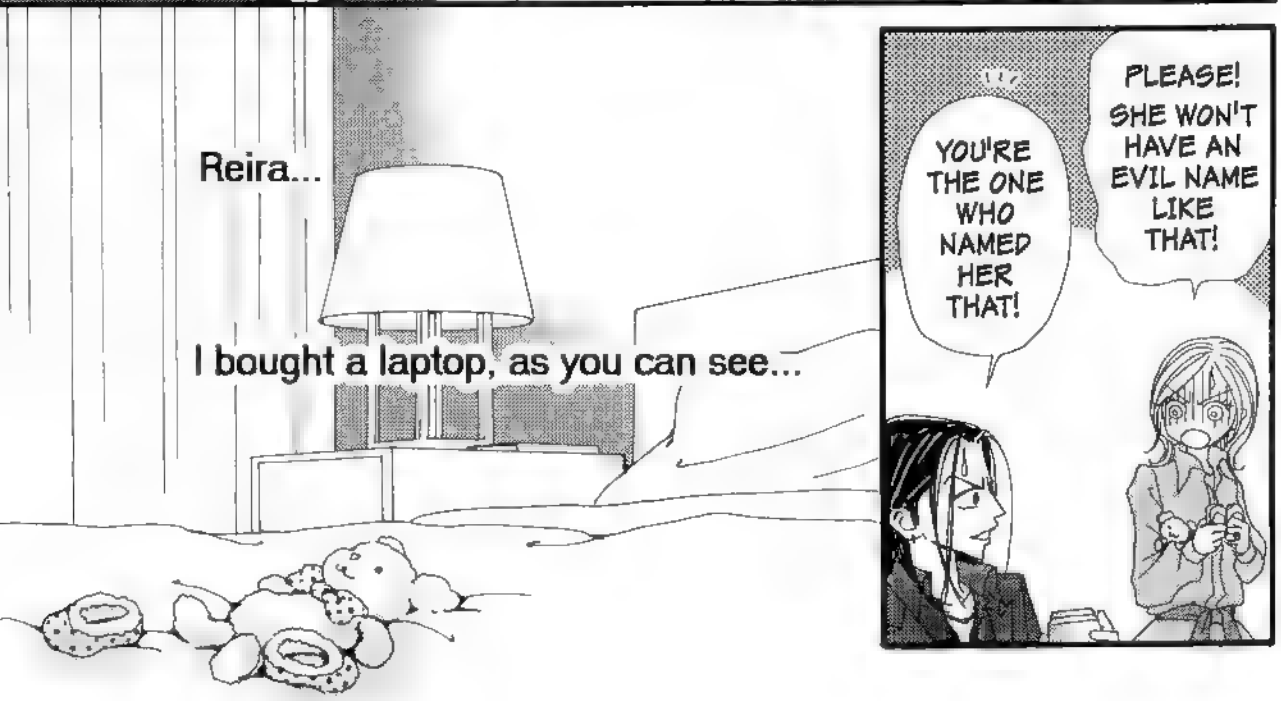

IN YOUR LEFT POCKET.
WHAT?
YOU LIAR!
WHERE'S MY RING?!
HUH?
AND YOU ALREADY HAVE IT.
THAT'S NOT A SOU-VENIR.

YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO EASILY DUPED BY GUYS.
MAGIC...
I HAVE PRIORI-TIES THAT I JUST CAN'T CHANGE.
Hmph!

BUT MY LADY COMES SECOND.
I NEED HER TO RELAX.
I DON'T REALLY PAY ATTENTION TO MUCH ELSE.
WORK COMES FIRST.
THAT TAKES UP OVER 90% OF MY BRAIN.
...BUT I WON'T LET YOU HAVE A HARD LIFE.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO BE WITH YOU MUCH...


ALL RIGHT...
...AS LONG AS I COME FIRST WITH EVERY-THING ELSE...
!!
SORRY...
WELL... YOU ACTUALLY COME SECOND WITH WHAT'S LEFT.
THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD SOUVENIR FOR MY NUMBER ONE GIRL.
♪
SHOES?
SINCE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WEAR THEM.
SMALL-ER THAN ME?
WAIT!
SACHIKO?
NOT HER AGAIN!
SHUDDER
YOU ALREADY NAMED HER?
BUT THAT'S SO OLD-FASH-IONED.
WELL, WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
rustle
WHAT?

THEN THIS IS FOR LI'L SACHI. ♡
HERE.
THEY'RE SO CUTE!
EEK! ♡
AND SO MANY! ♡
THANK YOU, DADDY! ♡
Like a cocktail waitress.
BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY SOUND RIGHT.
SACHIKO ICHI-NOSE.
WHAT A TONGUE-TWISTER.


Reira...
I bought a laptop, as you can see...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NAMED HER THAT!
PLEASE! SHE WON'T HAVE AN EVIL NAME LIKE THAT!

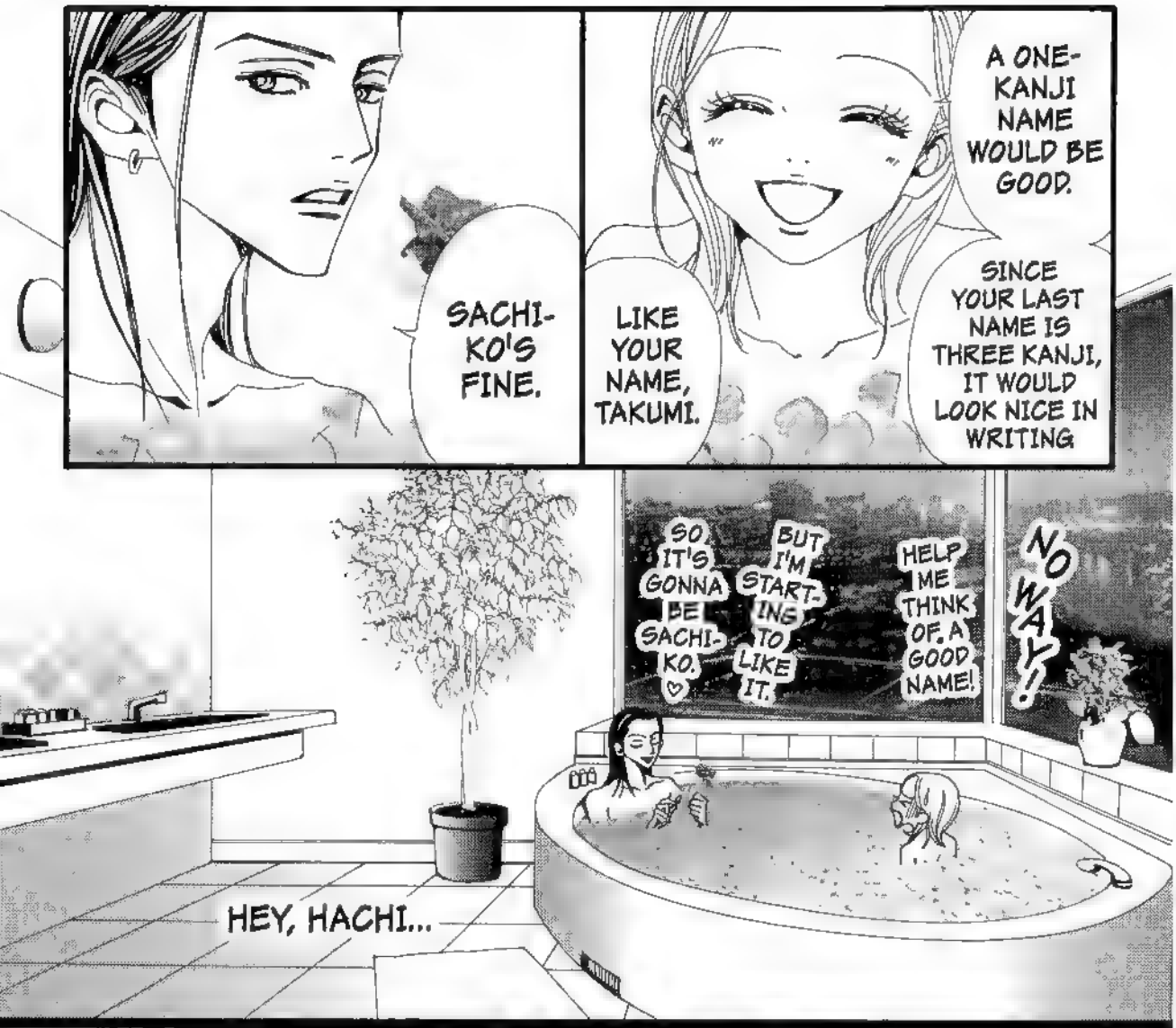
Cause I wanted to use up all the money you gave me.
But I didn't wanna spend it just on myself.
I bought the acoustic guitar for the same reason.
I can't get romantic enough to sing if my voice can't reach you.
So I'll be e-mailing you when I can.
Please write back if you feel like it.
Let's talk soon.
The weather's nice today, so there'll be lots of stars out tonight.
Shinichi Okazaki

FLICK
crunch
HEY, FAKE LAWYER... ♡
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HIDING IN THE DARK?

WHEN WE GET BACK TO TOKYO, WE'LL BE CRAZY BUSY PROMOTING THE RECORD.
SLEEP NOW WHILE YOU CAN.
WHY NOT?
YOU WANNA DO IT?
EVER SINCE THE FOX TALKED ABOUT THE UNANNOUNCED SHOWS, I'M SO PSYCHED I CAN'T SLEEP.
RUNNING AROUND ALONE AT NIGHT... IT'S DANGER-OUS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AND DRESSED LIKE THAT!
'CAUSE YOU'RE TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH ME, RIGHT?
WELL, I CAN'T LAUGH IT OFF.
JUST JOKING.

I LAID ALL MY CARDS ON THE TABLE. I CAN'T DENY IT ANYMORE.
MAYBE I WAS TOO OBVIOUS.
YEAH.
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME. YOU JUST SING.
NOTHING, REALLY.
WHAT'RE YOU SCHEMING?
YEAH, BALDY.
BUT YASU...

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE ONE ANY-MORE, LIKE BEFORE.
EVEN WHEN I'M WITH REN, I'M LONELY INSIDE.
...IT FEELS LIKE MY BOND WITH YOU HAS GOTTEN STRONGER THAN MY BOND WITH REN.
...IN THE TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER REN AND I FIRST BROKE UP...
MY FEELINGS FOR REN HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
MAI.
YUI.
AKANE.
SUMIRE.


A ONE-KANJI NAME WOULD BE GOOD.
SINCE YOUR LAST NAME IS THREE KANJI, IT WOULD LOOK NICE IN WRITING
LIKE YOUR NAME, TAKUMI.
SACHI-KO'S FINE.
NO WAY!
HELP ME THINK OF A GOOD NAME!
BUT I'M START-ING TO LIKE IT.
SO IT'S GONNA BE SACHI-KO. ♡
HEY, HACHI...

THE SKY IS SPRINKLED WITH STARS...

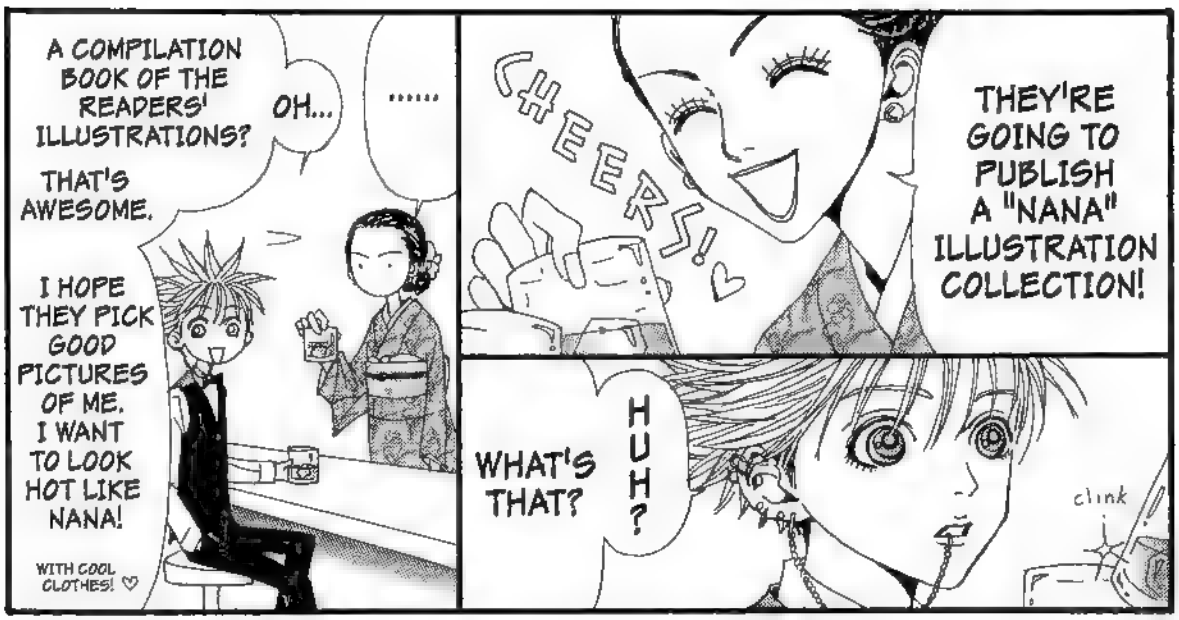
...AND TONIGHT, THE SKY IS JUST SO BRIGHT.

EVEN NOW...
...WHEN I SEE SOMETHING SPARKLING...

THERE'S A MISTAKE IN THE "NAOKI" STORY IN VOL. 9.
MARI!
NAOKI, WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?!
YOU'D THINK THAT ONE WORD WOULDN'T REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BUT THEN IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE MEANING IS KIND OF DIFFERENT.
AND AMATEUR BANDS NEED MONEY SOMETIMES, SO TAKUMI HAD ME GET MONEY FROM GIRLS...
THE "AND" SHOULD BE A "BUT".
IN THE LOWER RIGHT PANEL ON PAGE 272.
I UNDER-STAND.
WELL, I'M NOT IN THE STORY MUCH, SO I DON'T GOT MUCH TO DO.
NAOKI, WHY'RE YOU HERE?
WHAT? REALLY?
WELL THEN, PLEASE CORRECT IT IN THE NEXT EDITION.
STOP THE PRESSES! I'M CALLING SHUEISHA TO HAVE IT CORRECTED.
YOU'RE SO GOOD TO ME...
THANK YOU, MARI... ♡
Love ♪
DASH
THE FIRST AND SECOND EDITIONS ALREADY WENT TO PRINT WITH THAT MISTAKE.
NAOKI...

Woo! But the English version is correct! Thanks Mari!

LET'S WRITE HER A POST-CARD AND SEND IT IN.
"JUNKO'S PLACE" EXISTS FOR TIMES LIKE THIS.
WHAT ...?
WHAT'S JUNKO'S PLACE?
No! WHAT'LL I do?!
AAH!
PAPARAKKYO!
IT'LL BE OKAY!
JUST CALM DOWN!
POP
POP
日本一
7F SNACK BAR
Junko's Place
WHAT'S THE NEWS?
I GOT GOOD NEWS TODAY, SO I WANTED TO CELE-BRATE.
I'M FINALLY IN THE MOOD TO WORK, AND NO ONE'S HERE.
WHAT, NO CUSTOM-ERS ?!


A COMPILATION BOOK OF THE READERS' ILLUSTRATIONS?
THAT'S AWESOME.
I HOPE THEY PICK GOOD PICTURES OF ME. I WANT TO LOOK HOT LIKE NANA!
WITH COOL CLOTHES! ♡
OH...
.....
CHEERS! ♡
THEY'RE GOING TO PUBLISH A "NANA" ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION!
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
clink

ARIELLE GARCIA
Metairie

ANA BARAJAS
Anthony

JENNIFER HARCOTTE
Oswego

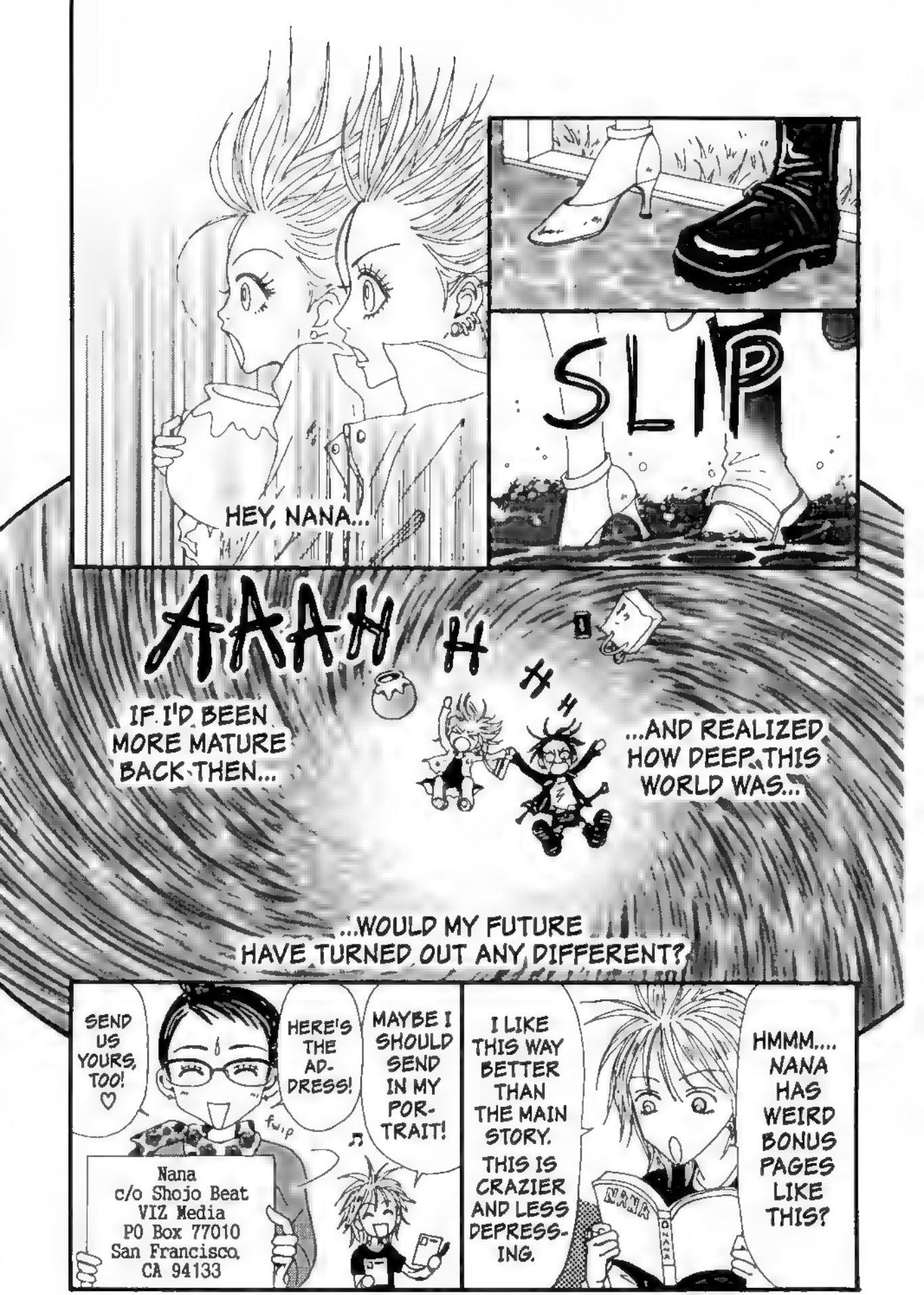
ROCIO TREJO
Skokie

LAUREN CHAIKIN
South Euclid

WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY A PHOTO BOOK.
LIKE A PHOTO BOOK?
AN ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION OF A MANGA USUALLY HAS COLOR PAGES FROM THE MAIN STORY.
NO SHIN, IT'S NOT THAT.

BECAUSE WE ARE JUST RESIDENTS OF A FICTIONAL WORLD, WE CAN ONLY LIVE ON PAPER.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE STRUGGLE, WE CAN NEVER BECOME REAL HUMANS.
DON'T MESS WITH ME, JUNKO.
I'M NOT JUST SOME DUMB KID LIVING IN A FANTASY WORLD.
ACTUALLY, YOU ARE A KID, SHIN!
PUT DOWN THAT DRINK!
HEY, NANA...
ISN'T THIS AN EMERGENCY EXIT SIGN?
WHERE DOES IT LEAD TO?
THERE'S A DOOR HERE.
WHAT?
LIKE AN EMERGENCY STAIRWELL?
WE'RE FREE! WE CAN GO BACK TO THE SEVENTH FLOOR!
BUT WHY IS THERE A DOOR NOT CONNECTED TO ANYTHING ELSE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?
MAYBE IT'S A TRAP!
IF THIS MANGA GOES ON UNTIL VOL. 77, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL LET US OUT THAT EASY!

THERE'S NO WAY I'M HANGING AROUND THAT LONG!
BAM
NANA!
7
5
SEE... IT'S JUST A STAIR-CASE.
THE SERIES MUST HAVE BEEN CANCELLED, AND THE MANGAKA HAD TO END THE STORY QUICK.
OH... PHEW!
EVEN IF IT'S SOME WEIRD HOCUS POCUS, WE SUR-VIVED, WHICH IS ALL RIGHT BY ME.
IT'S TOO BAD WE DIDN'T GET TO MEET GEORGE ...
AND I WISH I COULD HAVE HOOKED UP WITH MR. ASANO AGAIN, AND MARRIED HIM IN THE MAIN STORY! ♡
ALL RIGHT, LET'S JUST GET BACK TO THE SEVENTH FLOOR AND THINK GOOD THOUGHTS.
YEAH! ♡



NANA AND HACHI'S SURVIVAL ADVENTURE CONTINUES!
WE'LL BE OPEN IN VOL. 11, TOO!

NANA Illustration Collection on sale May 20th!

Size B5
(Comes in a case)

Suggested price
¥1800
(tax included)

Even if the series continues, the *NANA* illustration collection will still go on sale! We're frantically working on it right now. New illustrations will be included! Junko Mama on the CD cover of "Tsuya" will be included! So get psyched!

Bandai made a sticker set for *NANA* that'll be in jumbo gumball machines. ♡Just put in ¥100, turn the knob, and you'll get a sticker set. There are four different sets, and each set has lots of stickers.♡ Starting at the end of March, you should be able to buy them somewhere in town for about two months. For details, see the May issue of "Cookie"!

http://www.carddas.com/

NANA Jumbo Gumball Machine Stickers on Sale!

Sorry if they sell out!

The Family Times

Mar. 15, 2004

Cookie

On sale the 26th of every month!

Often with *NANA* bonus pages inside!

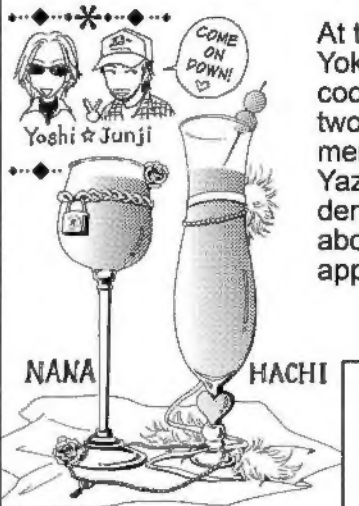
http://cookie.shueisha.co.jp/

Mekke!

Assorted "Blast" tour merch on sale!

http://mekke.shueisha.co.jp/

Let's sip on a *NANA* cocktail!



At the bar "Ibiza" in Seya of Yokohama, both Nana and Hachi cocktails have been born. The two owners were fellow band members of our family boss, Ai Yazawa, when they were students! You may be able to hear about the good ol' days as an appetizer!

ibiza

Moving to Tokyo!

http://www.h6.dion.ne.jp/~ibiza/

Have You Seen Me?

Misato Uehara (alias?)

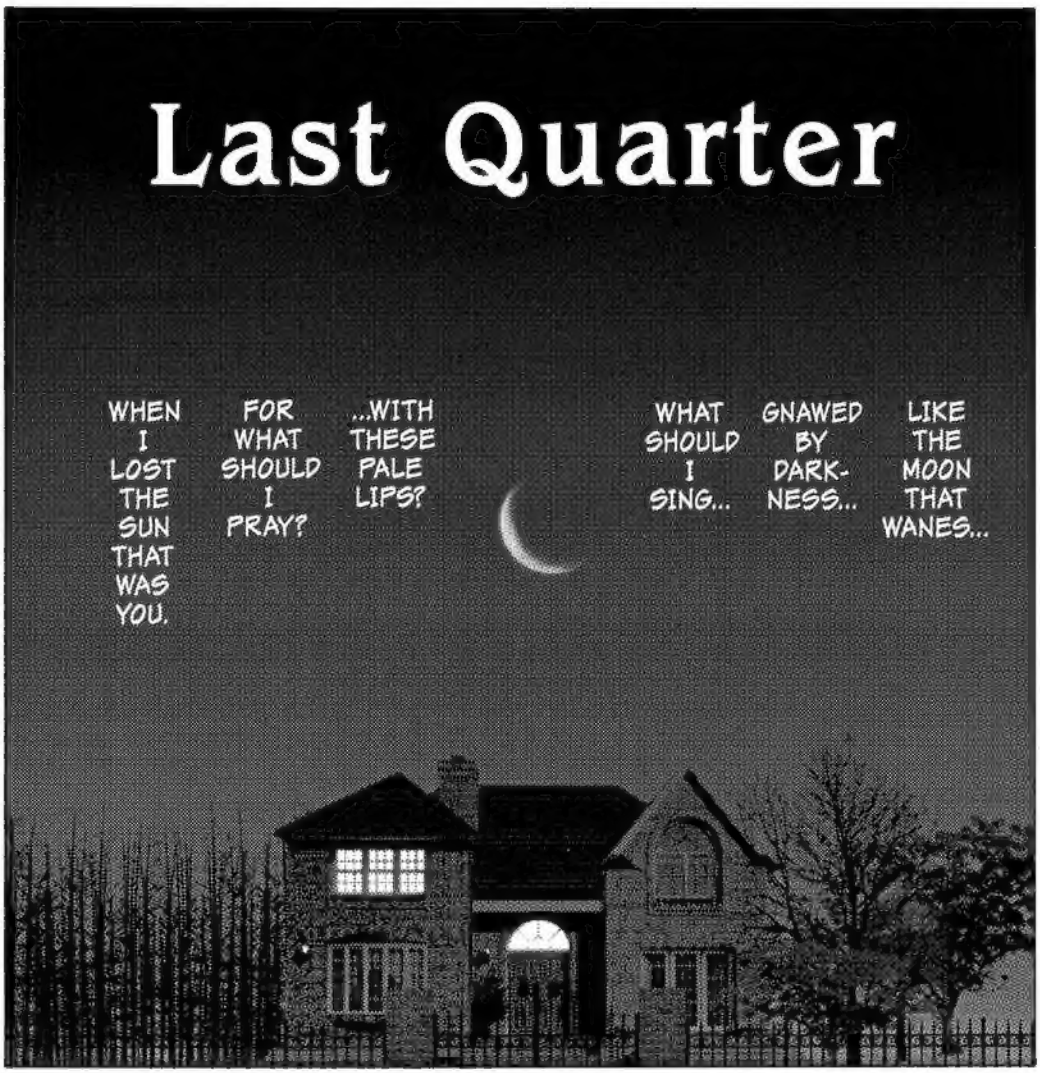
Nobuo Terashima

Nana Osaki

Nana Komatsu

Kagen no Tsuki is going to be made into a movie!

Live-action cinema with a gorgeous cast!
Details in the next volume! Don't miss it!


Last Quarter
WHEN I LOST THE SUN THAT WAS YOU.
FOR WHAT SHOULD I PRAY?
...WITH THESE PALE LIPS?
WHAT SHOULD I SING...
GNAWED BY DARK-NESS...
LIKE THE MOON THAT WANES...

Fall 2004: First-run showings at Shochiku theaters nationwide.

(Director/Script) Ken Nikai

☆ All products listed in our newsletter actually exist!

Natural disasters can't be prevented, but man-made disasters don't have to occur. That's what I think. I didn't end up writing real world events into the *Nana* story, cause there are people who would have been deeply affected by my retelling. I wouldn't be able to keep it ambiguous enough, and I didn't want to just brush over the issue irresponsibly. I hope you all understand. –Ai Yazawa

Ai Yazawa is the creator of many popular manga titles, including *Tenshi Nanka Janai* (I'm No Angel) and *Gokinjo Monogatari* (Neighborhood Story). Another series, *Kagen no Tsuki* (Last Quarter), was made into a live-action movie and released in late 2004. American readers were introduced to Yazawa's stylish and sexy storytelling in 2002 when her title *Paradise Kiss* was translated into English.

Nana has become the all-time best-selling shojo title from Japanese publishing giant Shueisha, and the series even garnered a Shogakukan Manga Award in the girls category in 2003. A live-action *Nana* movie was released in Japan in 2006.

NANA
VOL. 10

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY AI YAZAWA

English Adaptation/Allison Wolfe
Translation/Tomo Kimura
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Sabrina Heep
Cover Design/Courtney Utt
Interior Design/Julie Behn
Editor/Pancha Diaz

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Shojo Beat Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, May 2008